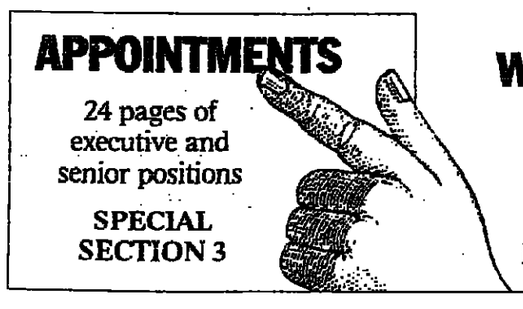
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THE TIMES

25P

No. 65,426 THURSDAY NOVEMBER 16 1995



APPOINTMENTS

24 pages of executive and senior positions

SPECIAL SECTION 3

Why safety should be skin deep

The risk factor in anti-ageing creams

DR STUTTAFORD P18





Bowie dares to be different

Icon leaves the past behind. P36

Bitter clashes over Queen's speech

Opening shots fired in 'dirty' election battle

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN MAJOR and Tony Blair traded insults and invective yesterday after the Government drew the battle lines for the general election with a legislative programme that heralded fierce political conflict on immigration, education and law and order.

MPs of all parties predicted a dirty run-in to the election after the two leaders reached a new level of bitterness in exchanges over the plan to crack down on bogus asylum seekers, one of 16 big Bills listed in the Queen's speech.

The tension was heightened by rising unemployment, falling high street sales, a declaration by the Tory MP Sir Julian Critchley that he would not vote Conservative next time, and a paint and flour attack on the Conservative chairman Brian Mawhinney.

After the ceremonial of the state opening, the parties immediately resumed their war for the centre ground, with a confident Mr Blair telling the Commons that "one nation Toryism" was dead and Mr Major countering that only the Tories could claim to be the one nation party.

Mr Major rejected Mr Blair's claims that his programme was driven by pressure from the Right, maintaining that it was a "commonsense, practical programme of traditional Conservative values".

As expected, the main measures announced were the asylum Bill, powers for MI5 to switch to crime-fighting, new rules to give the prosecution a better chance of convicting criminals, fresh encouragement for grant-maintained schools, the introduction of vouchers for nursery education, a widening of the health ombudsman's powers to cover complaints about clinical judgment, and a Bill to ease the rules on cross-media ownership.

There will also be moves to give students the option of taking out loans with private sector lenders and to pave the way for a high-speed Channnel Tunnel rail link. Along with the Budget on November 28, the package is intended to encourage business, investment and skills training to make Britain the enterprise centre of Europe.

MAIN POINTS

Education:
- ☐ Voucher scheme for nursery schools
- ☐ Students to get subsidised private loans
- ☐ New borrowing powers for grant-maintained schools

Home affairs:
- ☐ Tighter asylum controls
- ☐ MI5 to fight organised crime
- ☐ New duties for the defence in criminal cases

Family:
- ☐ One-year wait for divorce

Transport:
Privately funded high-speed Channel Tunnel rail link

Broadcasting:
- ☐ Newspaper companies to be allowed to own TV stations

One of the most controversial measures on the Tory side will be the Bill reforming the divorce laws, although Mr Major moved to defuse the issue by promising his MPs a free vote.

Mr Blair described it as a "pathetic mouse of a Queen's speech, attacked the Government as "tired, inept and incompetent" and demanded an immediate election. "They have been there too long, they have told too many lies, they have made too many mistakes, they have nothing to offer the future of Britain. It is time for them to go."

He said the speech was "utterly irrelevant to the interests of Britain. This is a party that has ceased to have any real vision or purpose in government at all. It is about the interests of the Tory party, cobbling together any old bric-a-brac of legislation that can keep the party in one piece because that can only be done by appeasing the right wing."

The Government was involved in a "tawdry, low-life, demeaning exercise in political tactics" which did nothing for the people of Britain.

But Mr Major said it was the right programme for the country, admitting also that it would be a "litmus test" for Labour. He accused Mr Blair of spouting copper-plated nonsense and humbug based on cheap soundbites and no real policy. He attacked Mr Blair's "chameleon-like ability to change political colour, depending on the audience".

"The policies Labour advocate would squander our opportunities, by their readiness to increase spending and put up taxes, by the certainty that they would let inflation rip, by discouraging investment with more red tape. Policies like these do not add up to a credible programme of opposition, let alone of government. They add to the reason why Labour are unfit to govern."

The electioneering theme was maintained by Paddy Ashdown, who described the Queen's speech as a list of "fag end measures from a fag end government". It was "a cut and run programme designed to be ditched at any time".

Conservative sources later voiced irritation that Mr Blair had "sprung on" Mr Major a suggestion that the asylum Bill should go to a special Commons committee rather than be discussed on the floor of the Commons. They claimed it was an attempt to avoid difficult decisions in the spotlight of the Commons.

Mr Major said he would consider the idea but appeared cool on it.

The new programme also included Bills to reform the Territorial Army, ratify the international chemical weapons convention, improve education and training in Scotland, allow housing association tenants to buy their homes, give disabled people the chance of buying community care services direct instead of relying on local councils.

If parliamentary time allows, Bills will be brought in to streamline procedures for less serious libel claims, introduce structured settlements for personal injury claims and reform land trust laws.

Matthew Parris, page 2
Speech details, pages 10-12
Peter Riddell, page 20
Leading article, page 21



Dr Mawhinney covered in paint splashed by asylum Bill protesters

Paint hurled at Tory chief

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

AN INQUIRY began last night into why police took 20 minutes to respond when Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Party chairman, was pelted with flour and paint by protesters outside the House of Commons.

Dr Mawhinney was crossing College Green opposite the Commons for a radio interview after the State Opening of Parliament when banner-waving demonstrators began hurling orange paint and flour.

Although dozens of police were on duty outside the Palace of Westminster 100 yards away, the attack on the former Northern Ireland minister, who had no personal security protection, was apparently unnoticed.

The Cabinet minister was walking with his wife Betty and Alan Duncan, his parliamentary aide, to a makeshift BBC studio when the paint and flour was thrown as a protest at tighter immigration and asylum rules.

Dr Mawhinney's hair and dark suit were covered in paint and Mr Duncan called the police on a borrowed mobile telephone. When no officers arrived and the protesters tried to leave Mr Duncan grabbed one of the protesters and threatened to make a citizen's arrest.

One MP observed: " You'd have thought that Westminster on the day of the Queen's Speech was the one place you might find a policeman when you needed one."

Scotland Yard last night apologised and said Mr Duncan's 999 call had been misrouted. Three people were being questioned by police last night.



Mr Duncan attempts to make a citizen's arrest

Princess may lose staff in Palace backlash over interview

BY ALAN HAMILTON AND EMMA WILKINS

BUCKINGHAM PALACE is considering withdrawing the small remaining support it gives to the Princess of Wales for her public duties.

The angry, bemused and dismayed attitude of officials over the Princess's interview with *Panorama* to be broadcast on Monday is a fair indication of the Queen's own view of her daughter-in-law, who said nothing about the programme until after it had been made.

Although St James's Palace, which houses the offices of the Prince and Princess, is so devolved from the Queen's household that it is almost an independent state, the Princess still enjoys some official royal benefits. Chief among those are the services of Geoffrey Crawford, assistant press secretary to the Queen, who handles media arrangements when the Princess is on official business. The Palace may now consider withdrawing him from her service.

In a normal world, Mr Crawford — who was in Argentina yesterday preparing for the Princess's working visit to Patagonia and Buenos Aires next week — would have been responsible for arranging the *Panorama* interview. But even he is believed to have known nothing about it.

The continued services of Patrick Jephson, the Princess's private secretary, are also out of her hands, since he is paid by the Duchy of Cornwall.

The Princess had no official engagements yesterday, but she made her regular morning appearance at the Chelsea Harbour fitness club dressed in a T-shirt and shorts. She made no comment to waiting reporters, but unusually raised her head and gave photographers a full view of her face instead of her usual bowed head. Sunday newspapers were yesterday reported to be ready to pay up to £75,000 for a copy of the videotape of the Princess's interview, but it — and the interviewer Martin Bashir — remained under tight security.

During their conversation, the Princess is said to have discussed her new life, her public duties and her separation from the Prince of Wales. She is reported to be positive and assertive during the hour-long interview, recorded on November 5, and to speak without bitterness.

It is not, according to one of her friends, a highly-public whinge, although she expresses bewilderment over accusations that she was responsible for nuisance telephone calls to her art dealer friend Oliver Hoare.

The Princess is also said to emphasise her loyalty to the monarchy and to be circumspect on the prospects of a divorce. The BBC, however, has denied all speculative stories about what the Princess said.

Some commentators already fear that she may do herself more harm than good if she is too outspoken. Lord St John of Fawsley, Master of Emmanuel College, Cambridge and a prominent constitutionalist, said last night: "Those who live by the media can also die by the media. The Princess has every right to give an interview if she wishes, but it is a risky business. The prudent thing for her to do would be to view the final cut before transmission, and to consider carefully what she has said."

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Leading article 21

Pound falters as sales fall

Sterling fell to an all-time low on the trade-weighted index yesterday after announcements of a fall in retail sales and the first rise in unemployment since autumn 1993. Helped by pre-Budget jitters, the pound ended at 82.6, down 0.7 on the day. Analysts said foreign exchanges were clearly expecting a cut in base rates. Page 25

Buying The Times overseas
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Critchley: I won't vote Tory

BY ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

A SENIOR Tory backbencher embarrassed the Government yesterday by announcing that he will not be voting for the party at the next general election.

Sir Julian Critchley, who retires as MP for Aldershot at the election, blamed the "less well-educated, deeply prejudiced and chauvinist Tory Party" left by Margaret Thatcher for his disillusion.

Sir Julian said that he could not bring himself to vote for Christopher Gill, the right-wing MP for Ludlow, where he is planning to spend his retirement.

Sir Julian also said that the Tories were unlikely to win the next election and would face at least eight years in Opposition.

He said he would "sit on his hands" rather than vote for his fellow backbenchers, some of whom he described as, "an unattractive blend of English nationalists, radicals and populists." But he denied that he had been won over by new Labour party and said: "Nothing on earth would persuade me to vote for the Liberal Democrats."

A Tory MP for 36 years, he has always been on the extreme left of the party, was a Labour supporter in his teens and admits that he joined the party because his mother said that all the nice girls were in the Young Conservatives. He has made his reputation in the House as an acerbic, colourful wit and part-time writer.

Sir Julian, writing in the *Evening Standard*, also warned that the party would lurch to the Right if it went into Opposition.

He also attacked grassroots Tories, saying associations were chosing right-wing candidates who were a "mixture of the clever and the crass", and who would change the nature of the party.

Sir Julian, who once called Baroness Thatcher, "The Great She-Elephant", said she should take the blame for his party's demise. "It is all Margaret's fault. A simple woman who was too big for her boots, she turned what was essentially a non-political party, a party of few but essential beliefs into an ideological crusade," he said.



Sir Julian: party will lose next election

'Pay first' order in French hospitals

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS AND HARVEY ELLIOT

FOREIGNERS undergoing hospital treatment in France will have to pay in advance as part of a drastic overhaul of the country's welfare system.

Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, announced yesterday that only in emergencies would non-resident foreigners receive hospital treatment without paying first. The rule is one of a host of new measures intended to reduce France's social security deficit.

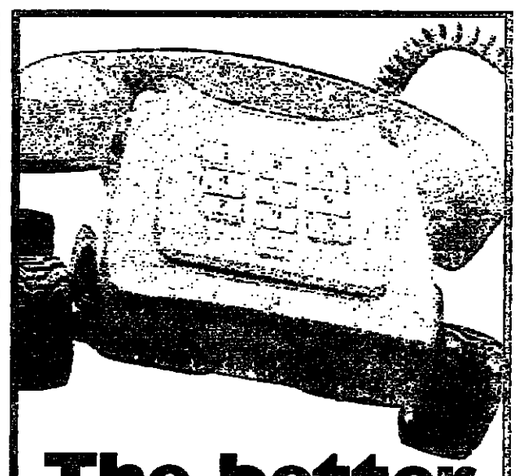
Under EU rules, Britons and others from member countries must pay for doctors' visits in France and then apply for reimbursement. The system has now been extended to hospital treatment, other than emergencies, including out-patient care.

Foreigners living in France, however, can apply to be registered as taxpayers and receive free treatment. Medical charges in France are very similar to those for private care in Britain. They range from about £750 to more than £2,000 per day.

Travel insurance does provide full cover, but it is estimated that under half the people making brief visits to France bother to take out such cover.

The new rule is principally aimed at foreigners who travel to France for pre-planned hospital care and will not affect tourists who require unexpected hospital treatment, since they would be considered emergencies, a spokesman for the Prime Minister's office said. However, the ruling may affect British patients sent to France for treatment, or businessmen in France for extended periods.

Welfare reform, page 17



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New session, new Black Rod, same old story

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Yesterday paint was thrown over Dr Brian Mawhinney, the Tory chairman. It can only improve him. Afterwards he looked happier than we have ever seen him. He had been recognised at last!

Your sketchwriter watched the Queen's Speech on television. The grey plastic set seemed a bland frame for such visual richness, so I adorned mine with a piece of tinsel and a strip of synthetic fur from the detached collar of an old anorak. Readers may like to try this. Her Majesty looked more comfortable. The ceremonials might be improved, henceforth, by the ritual daubing of the party chairman in paint before the Queen arrives.

Waiting in the Commons had been Dennis Skinner. *Before the Queen's Speech* begins, Black Rod, a chap in tights carrying a billiard cue, marches in to summon MPs. Last year, Sir Richard Thomas as retired as Black Rod. Yesterday General Sir Edward Jones took his place.

"New Labour," growled Dennis, "new Black Rod."

After lunch, debate commenced. By tradition one senior and one junior government backbencher propose *and second the motion.* Douglas Hurd and Gyles Brandreth (Chester) were given the honour. At first Douglas Hurd looked and sounded awkward. For so long the statesman defending sticky wickets abroad, the requirement simply to offer a charming description of his own constituency (Witney) seemed to discomfit him.

He tried a poetic line or two: "On a spring evening," *burbled the white-haired luminary,* "when daffodils are bright against the grey stone." Alarmed, one began to miss Mr Hurd's more familiar style — on Bosnia, for instance. Fortunately he quit the daffodils pretty fast.

And this newest backbencher soon found his old stride. Who can better his depiction of the Commons's loss of touch with voters? Members of Parliament were "playing out the old play". But "beyond the footlights, half the audience has walked away, and the other half are watching with mounting irritation".

"Political success," said Hurd, "may well go to those who sound least like politicians." Everyone murmured "Hear, hear." He made a dignified plea for less juvenile debate — what he called "empty noise and phoney warfare". Again, everyone murmured "Hear, hear."

And within twenty minutes they were all at it.

But first a pleasant distraction. After a stilted start, Gyles Brandreth gave one of the best junior supporting speeches made in recent years. His wife, he told MPs, had heard him described on local radio as "an expert on the marriage Act". This had surprised her. "She nearly fell out of her bunk."

A sparkling speech deserved sparkling heckling — and Brandreth got it. "Quite simply," began this near-miss winner of one of Britain's most marginal seats, "Chester is the best place in the world. Two thousand years of matchless history . . ."

"And a one thousand majority," shouted Joe Ashton (Lab, Bassetlaw). "Actually it's 1,101," said Brandreth.

But good humour evaporated when the big boys got up. Tony Blair made an undignified, nose-thumbing speech. John Major responded with a plea for "an end to this silly name-calling". He then called Blair's speech "copper-plated nonsense" and his opinions "total baloney". And sucks to you too.

New Labour, a relaunched Prime Minister, a new Black Rod, a new session . . .

. . . *and there they go again.* Douglas Hurd watched sadly, thinking perhaps of the Witney daffodils.

If the poll lead is to be translated into votes, the 'gender gap' may prove critical

Labour's best hope is to convince older women

The Opposition's chances of forming the next government hang on targeting women who usually vote Consevative, says ***Robert Worcester*** *of MORI*

WOMEN in Britain have been consistently more likely than men to vote Conservative, probably ever since they got the vote in 1918. It has on occasion made the difference between the Tories winning or losing. At the 1992 election, if women (a ten-point Tory lead) had voted as men did (a four-point Tory lead), it would have resulted in a hung Parliament, and Neil Kinnock would almost certainly have become Prime Minister.

Labour has noticed. In the 1987 election, the Kinnock campaign team aimed at young women, and won them over, with more 18 to 24-year-old women voting Labour than Tory. This held in 1992, with a Labour lead of 13 percentage points among 18 to 24-year-old women compared with a 5-point Labour lead among men of the same age, and a ten point lead among women overall.

In a recent aggregate analysis for *The Times* involving more than 17,000 adults, Labour had a 36-point lead among men, compared with a 28-point lead among women, a "gender gap" of 8 per cent. Yet among 18 to 24-year-olds, the "gender gap" was only three points: among the 25 to 34-year-olds just one point: but among 35 to 54-year-olds (a third of the electorate), an 11-point gap; and among the over 55s — also at least a third of all voters — the gap is ten points (see graph).

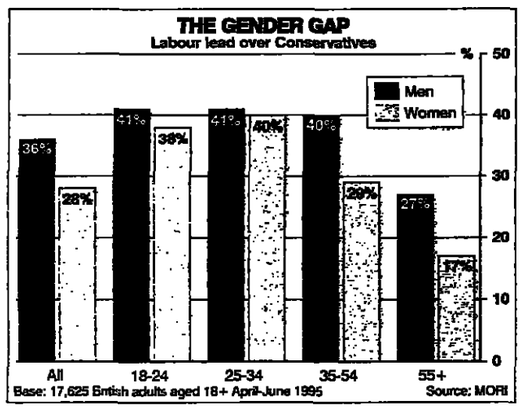
When MORI asked people to name the most important issues facing the country in last month's survey for *The Times*, unemployment was the clear leader among men, named by 54 per cent, with the NHS second on 42 per cent; but among women the issues scored almost equally, 48 per cent compared to 47 per cent. Women were also significantly more likely than men to mention education and housing, but much less likely to cite the economic situation or tax.

In July, MORI asked which issues would be *very* important in determining how people voted at the next election, and which party had the best policy on each: healthcare was the most frequent choice of both men and women, but while 61 per cent of men thought Labour had the best policy, only 52 per cent of women did — many more women than men (29 per cent against 18 per cent) felt they didn't know which party had the best healthcare policies, a clear communications opportunity for Labour.

Women also view the parties slightly differently from men. In our questions last month to measure party image, almost as many women thought Labour would "promise anything to win votes" (33 per cent) as agreed the party "understands the problems facing Britain" (34 per cent) or is "concerned about the people in real need" (36 per cent); among men the positive attributes have a more comfortable lead.

Labour's opinion poll lead at present is huge, but nobody seriously believes Labour can gain such a lead at the next election. Consequently, the party needs to bear in mind that its target among middle-aged and older women is not to win over the remainder, but to hold on to the support of as many as possible of those who have already switched.

If the gender gap is to be broken down, it is not likely to be by a further swing among older women, but it may be by persuading fewer of them to swing back to the Tories than other groups.




Women have consistently been more likely than men to vote Conservative

Middle England voices her sceptical support

BY JOHN YOUNG

WOMEN'S organisations greeted the news that the Labour Party was seeking to enlist the support of more women voters yesterday with a mixture of delight and scepticism.

The delight was that their concerns were at last being taken seriously, the scepticism that politicians were all the same under the skin and electoral promises all too quickly forgotten.

Tessa Jowell, the party's spokesperson on women, has been charged with broadening its appeal to include the middle-aged women of middle England, traditionally assumed to be the bedrock of Conservative support in rural constituencies.

Elizabeth Southey, chairman of the National Federation of Women's Institutes, said she welcomed the opportunity to discuss its concerns with any political party at national or local level.

Among the federation's main concerns were the fragmentation and decline of services in rural areas, the closure of post offices, and poor access to health care in rural areas. It also wanted more support for carers in rural communities, a better deal on pensions for women, and more opportunities for adult learning.

"We are encouraged and hopeful that the Labour Party's comments may result in our campaigns gaining the prominence they truly deserve, from all political corners," she said. "We would like to see our campaigning issues addressed by all political parties, as we feel they are integral to the improvement of society as a whole."

Jean Clark, president of the National Council of Women, gavde a warning against typecasting the members of Women's Institutes and Townswomen's Guilds as different from their sisters on urban housing estates; many of their concerns were identical.

The council, an umbrella group embracing such diverse bodies as the Mothers' Union, the Child Poverty Action Group and the Family Planning Association, was strictly non-party political, she said. "No matter who's in power, we are asking for the same things."

Health, education and family welfare were at the top of its list of concerns. Older women were a neglected segment of society, and the council had been instrumental in establishing the Women's Health and Screening Delegation to promote screening for those over the age of 65.

It was also important that women were given more choice over whether to go out to work or to stay at home to raise a family, Ms Clark said. At present they were made to feel guilty whichever they did, either for putting their children into care during the day, or for not contributing to the family income.

On education, she would like to see politicians devote more attention to expanding nursery education for the under-fives and to enabling young people to be taught how to be good parents.

Denise Carr, of the National Alliance of Women's Organisations, said she would welcome the Labour initiative as a positive step if all political parties were to take the women's vote more seriously. But she was concerned by the use of the term "women's issues", which carried overtones of condescension and implied that men need not and should not be concerned with them.


Jowell: trying to attract new Labour voters

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Dublin predicts 'imminent' breakthrough on arms

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

DUBLIN raised hopes of an imminent breakthrough in the Northern Ireland peace process last night after a letter from John Major brought Britain and Ireland closer together on the issue of decommissioning weapons.

The letter from Mr Major to John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, was welcomed by officials in Ireland as a "significant move forward" in breaking the deadlock between the two countries over the surrender of arms.

Irish sources suggested agreement could be reached "within days" over the start of the "twin-track" approach aimed at establishing an international commission to oversee the destruction of paramilitary weapons while conducting preparatory talks with the various parties.

Disagreements over the timing and details of the twin-track approach caused deep friction between the two governments in September, when a proposed summit meeting between the two leaders was called off at the last minute because Dublin backed down in the face of Sinn Fein pressure.

The two leaders are expected to be in regular contact over the coming days, although Downing Street officials were not prepared to say when agreement might be reached. However, they said that the *letter was "constructive and* forward-looking".

The thawing in relations comes days after Mr Bruton effectively accused Britain of dragging its feet, dismissing London's objections to Sinn Fein joining talks as "comparatively minor" in historical terms.

The Prime Minister told the Commons yesterday that Sinn Fein had to denounce punishment beatings and must underline its commitment to peace by ending "threats and thuggery".

Mr Major said that almost *every day brought a fresh* atrocity, with 250 punishment beatings since the ceasefire.

☐ The Rev Martin Smyth, the Grand Master of the Orange Order in Ireland, vowed yesterday to stay on after 1,500 Orangemen called for his resignation at a rally in Belfast. Mr Smyth, 64, who is *also the Ulster Unionist MP* for South Belfast, said he was not surprised by the demand and he added that it was up to the organisation's Grand Lodge to decide on his future.

He said: "I think we are living in a modern world where the spirit of delusion takes over some folk who don't think through what they are doing."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Water firms fail charter mark test

Applications from six water companies for the Prime Minister's charter mark for good public service were rejected last night. The move is a rebuke by the Government for the industry's poor recent performance.

Applicants included Yorkshire Water, which is attempting to ration supplies to thousands of households in the Halifax and Bradford areas. The company learnt last night that it will not be on the list when John Major hands out the charter marks at a ceremony in London on December 4. A spokesman said the company had applied for the award before the drought.

Others whose applications were rejected include Anglian, Severn Trent and Wessex, who each received charter marks in 1992. Their awards were up for renewal but the companies have been told to reapply next year.

Tube drivers accept offer

The threat of further travel chaos in London was averted yesterday when the RMT Tube drivers' union settled its five-month dispute with London Underground. After weeks of tortuous negotiations, the union accepted a 3 per cent pay offer but won minor improvements on terms of employment. The dispute was one of the longest in the Underground's history and led to three one-day strikes, which crippled much of the network. Ann Burfutt, director of human resources at London Underground, said:
"In such disputes, there are no winners. Now we need to ensure we do everything possible to prevent any recurrence."

Carey blames weak clergy

Weak and ineffective ministers are to blame when congregations drop, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, said last night. Calling for better training and less time-consuming administrative duties for clergy and lay leaders, he said: "Where there is visionary leadership, new Christians are made and churches grow. Where there is weak, ineffective ministry, congregations dwindle." Delivering the William Barclay lecture at Renfield St Stephen's church, Glasgow, he said the clergy were playing too much of a therapeutic role for people with problems, and were not geared enough towards leadership and mission.

Bible 'outdated', page 6

Prison protest

Prison officers armed with batons and shields moved into a top-security jail yesterday when 250 inmates protested over a new incentive scheme. Prisoners in two wings at Full Sutton jail near York went on strike by refusing to work after two days of mounting tension over a system under which privileges must be earned.

Heseltine surgery

Michael Heseltine was recuperating in a private clinic in London last night after a successful operation to remove a kidney stone. The Deputy Prime Minister will remain at the hospital until later in the week. He was said by aides to be "in good heart and well on the road to recovery". He intends to return to work on Monday.

Skip exercise

Teenage girls should skip 50 times a day to avoid brittle bones in later life, according to Dr Joan Bassey from the department of physiology and pharmacology at the Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham. One in four women will sustain a fracture after menopause as a result of osteoporosis. Weight-bearing exercise can prevent it.

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Corporation holds court in global auction

Princess takes the air as Panorama man vanishes

BY ANDREW PIERCE AND ALEXANDRA FREAN

FILM of the hour-long *Panorama* interview with the Princess of Wales is being kept in a safe house by the BBC amid unprecedented security. Martin Bashir, the reporter who conducted the interview, has gone into hiding.

Last night even Mr Bashir's pregnant wife said that she did not know where her husband was staying. "I wish I did," Deborah Bashir, a district nurse, said.

Only six people at the BBC, including John Birt, the Director-General, knew about the exclusive interview with the Princess, which was filmed on Sunday, November 5, in her private apartments at Kensington Palace. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were in New Zealand for the Commonwealth Conference.

In keeping with BBC policy Marmaduke Hussey, the chairman of the governors, was not informed in advance. He was told on Tuesday morning at the same time the programme was announced by the BBC. Even Patrick Jepson, the Princess's private secretary, was kept in the dark about the interview, which has caused dismay at Buckingham Palace. International rights are now up for auction.

The interview was arranged by an unnamed intermediary who is a close friend of the Princess. The idea was mooted in the summer but she was plagued by doubts. The hostile publicity generated by her friendship with Will Carling, the England rugby star, and the increasingly public liaison of the Prince of Wales and Camilla Parker Bowles finally convinced her to go ahead with the public relations counterblast to the Jonathan Dimbleby interview with the Prince of Wales in which he confessed his adultery.



Bashir: went into hiding on Tuesday

Panorama was sounded out by the intermediary because it was felt the programme would give the Princess intellectual credibility. "Breakfast television would have seemed tacky," said one source.

Mr Bashir, who had never met the Princess before, saw her three times at Kensington Palace over a number of weeks to discuss the format. They struck up a good rapport.

But the Princess made clear that the project would be cancelled if there were any leaks. An added level of security was provided by Mr Bashir being paid through his newly formed company, Panoramic Productions.

The Princess is understood to have consulted a "war council" of her closest and most trusted advisers, all of whom have experience of the media. They included Clive James, the broadcaster who was photographed lunching with her after the Dimbleby interview, and Earl Spencer, her brother.

There was continuing amazement in royal circles yesterday that the interview could have taken place under the noses of so many royal courtiers. "Elaborate arrangements must have been made to keep that lot under wraps," said one royal official.

Mr Bashir, a cameraman and a soundman, were the only three present during the filming. They are understood to have used compact filming equipment which could be smuggled into the Palace without attracting any attention.

Mr Bashir has not been seen at his three-bedroom terraced home in Earlsfield, south London, since Tuesday morning. Mrs Bashir said: "I am not allowed to know where he is. "I last spoke to him Monday night. Martin hasn't told me a thing, he wasn't allowed to."

Mrs Bashir, whose children are Samuel, 7, and Phoebe, 4, added: "I knew about the interview but I don't know what is in it. All I know is that it's good." Mr Bashir thinks so too, his wife added. "He is very happy. He has done a good job."

Mr Bashir joined *Panorama* three years ago. He began his journalistic career as a freelance on the *Sunday Times* sports desk, and has worked at ITN and on BBC regional TV in London.

Panorama is the longest-running current affairs programme on British television, and started in 1953. A spokeswoman predicted an audience of 15 million for the interview, three times the usual figure.

BBC Worldwide, the corporation's commercial arm, said yesterday that it had been inundated with calls from around the world. All the main American networks are competing in the "auction" for exclusive US rights.

Libby Purves, page 20
Leading article and Letters, page 21

GILL ALLEN



The Princess leaving her gym in Chelsea yesterday

Teenager who died sold drugs to friends

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A MOTHER told an inquest last night of her disbelief when she heard her 17-year-old son had been dealing in drugs before his death. Daniel Ashton died in hospital 12 hours after taking a cocktail of Ecstasy and amphetamines at a Blackpool nightclub.

The inquest at Blackpool heard how the popular teenager had sold amphetamine "wraps" for between £5 and £10 each to his friends. Heather Ashton said: "I never had the slightest idea he was in any way involved in drugs."

Student witnesses told how Daniel, an A-level student at the town's sixth-form college, had sold amphetamines to students, including his girlfriend Vanessa Watson, and Andrew Aspden, both 16.

All three needed emergency hospital treatment after taking drugs on September 28 at the Palace nightclub. Daniel died 12 hours later.

A verdict that Ashton died from the abuse of non-dependent drugs was recorded.

☐ Essex Police investigating drug dealers who supplied Leah Betts, 18, with an Ecstasy tablet were last night interviewing six people. Leah was still critically ill.

☐ The Government is to impose greater controls on raves in Scotland in an attempt to cut the number of Ecstasy deaths. A Bill introducing "chill out" areas, free drinking water and proper stewarding is to be introduced.

TIMES 2 STARTS HERE



IN THE TIMES

Valerie Grove talks to John Birt about BBC coups and current affairs

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Greengrocer loses court battle to keep pavement display

BY IAN MURRAY

A GREENGROCER pleaded in vain before the High Court yesterday to keep the centuries-old tradition of a display of fruit and vegetables on the pavement outside his shop.

Unable to afford a barrister to argue his case, Brian Godfrey, 54, won the sympathy of the judge, Mr Justice Hidden, but lost the legal argument to Derbyshire County Council. The ruling opens the way for every council to order a trader to remove goods displayed outside a shop.

Mr Godfrey told the court that loss of his pavement display could mean the failure of his business in Ilkeston, which he bought in 1988 with the redundancy money he received after the closure of the colliery where he worked.

He said his takings had fallen by 74 per cent since 1992 because two car parks had been closed, a bypass had been built and the town centre had been pedestrianised. His display was essential to attract customers.

"It has always been traditional for greengrocers to have goods displayed outside," he said. "Elderly customers prefer to be able to choose their fruit outside."

He denied council claims that the 3ft-wide display was dangerous. There was still room on the pavement for a double baby carriage to pass. More than 700 people had signed a petition supporting him, and a partially sighted customer had written to the court asking for the display to remain. "I have been brought up all my life to be mindful of other people and would not do anything to harm anyone."



Godfrey: won sympathy of the judge for his plight

His arguments had persuaded magistrates in Ilkeston, who ruled in January that the display was an obstruction but did not constitute a nuisance. They allowed him to keep it, but the county council appealed to the High Court.

The judge said that the justices had misinterpreted the law, which clearly gave the public the right to walk on the full width of the pavement. "It seems to me the situation is that 'live and let live' works very well for a long time and people get away with obstructing the highway. But if a fuss is made and brought before a court, the court has to decide what the law is."

He said that, regretfully, he had to instruct the magistrates to reverse their decision. "I come to that conclusion with some sadness because it is clear that Mr Godfrey is a hard-working man who, as soon as he was made redundant, has put his hand to a useful further career which has been dogged with misfortune."

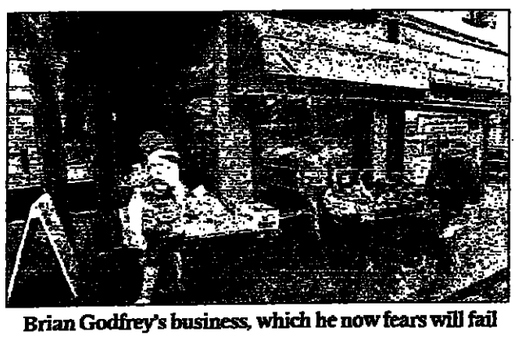
Mr Godfrey had told him of the possible consequences for his business, but "I have to decide on the fact of what the law is. I regret that decision and hope that what he fears does not come to pass."

Derbyshire waived its right to claim costs from Mr Godfrey. "That is very proper," the judge told Mr Godfrey. "Financially you are better off than you might have been."

After the case Mr Godfrey rang his wife to tell her to remove the display outside their shop. "The law is the law and I am a law-abiding man," he said.

Joe Murphy, chairman of the county council's highways and transport committee, welcomed the decision. "The council is of the opinion that pavements are for people and that they should be kept clear of all obstructions for the benefit of pedestrians.

"If we had made an exception for Mr Godfrey a precedent could have been set which could have affected the rights of pavement users throughout the country."



Brian Godfrey's business, which he now fears will fail

Traders blame pettiness for destroying tradition

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE retail trade condemned yesterday's ruling as an attack on tradition. Brian Waterhouse, director-general of the National Grocers' Benevolent Fund, said that, if the decision were applied to all grocers, the face of "open all hours" stores would be changed for ever.

"A display outside a shop is part and parcel of the British approach to selling groceries," said Mr Waterhouse, who was in the grocery trade for 50 years. "I believe such displays are a matter for sense and public consideration."

The newsagent next door to Brian Godfrey's greengrocery accused Derbyshire County Council of pettiness against an honest shopkeeper. "It is bureaucracy gone mad," Robin Butler, of John's News, said. "He's not the only shopkeeper who does it here. It has been an accepted thing for years.

"We have boards outside advertising the National Lottery and the local papers. If they are going to enforce this to the letter, I suppose they will have to go too."

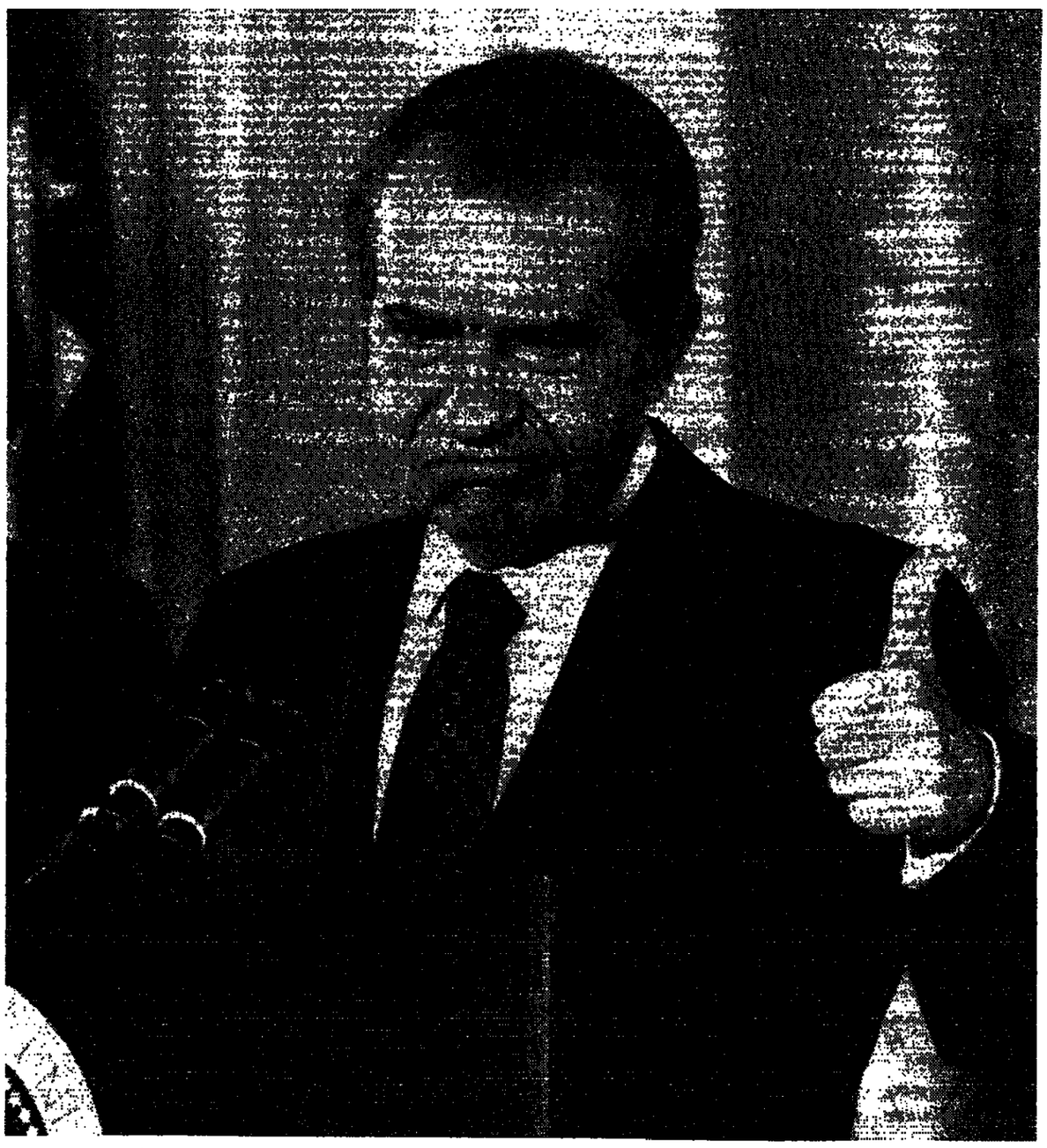
Sheila Parry, manager of Stacey's Bakery on the same street, said: "The council are the real fools here. They say they want to inject new life into Ilkeston and then they do something like this."

Peter Lynch, a borough councillor, said: "The ironic thing is that, if Brian's shop was only 30 yards further up the road in the pedestrianised area, his type of stall would be encouraged by the county council."

Howard Cooper, 68, who runs a general store and newsagent, said: "There is strong feeling behind Brian here. We all signed a petition for him and will support him whatever he does now."

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JURORS



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'Acquit her because there is no evidence. The Crown has failed to prove her guilt'

West's suicide avenged killings, QC tells jurors

By Richard Duce

JURORS in the Rosemary West trial were warned yesterday not to feel that an acquittal would mean the killings of ten girls and young women would go unpunished.

"Frederick West provided his own solution," Richard Ferguson, QC, said in his closing address for the defence. "His death has ensured that the relatives of the victims need not worry that their deaths have gone unpunished, so that's a weight that has been lifted from your shoulders.

"It is unfortunate that the Crown was not content to let matters rest there."

West, who killed himself in his cell while awaiting trial, had confessed to the killings, and it was an insult to the jury's intelligence to suggest that such an evil man would have lied to protect anyone else from blame, Winchester Crown Court was told.

Mr Ferguson said there was not a shred of evidence to link his client with the bodies uncovered at 25 Cromwell Street, Gloucester. "This is not like the trial of O. J. Simpson. There are no bloody fingerprints here, no gloves, no DNA evidence. You are not being asked by us to acquit in the teeth of the evidence. You are being asked to acquit because there is no evidence.

"All that you have is conjecture, suspicion and perhaps prejudice. What is required from each of you is a clear head, cool judgment and, at the end of the day, a clear conscience."

The jury, he said, had heard the voice of Frederick West. "If what he told you was the truth, then the defendant should be acquitted, not because you like or don't like her, not because you believe her, but because the Crown has failed to prove her guilt."

Mr Ferguson said he accepted and agreed that West was "a man devoid of compassion, consumed with sexual lust, a sadistic killer, someone who had opted out of the human race and, you may think, someone who was the very epitome of evil. But the Crown would say to you that man was the sort of man who was capable and who did take the blame as some part of an agreement between himself and his wife. Even to state that, you may think, shows the sheer improbability of such a proposition.



Ferguson: completed his summing up

"Fred West was not the stuff of which martyrs are made. The argument that Fred West would give up his life in order to protect someone else and look after his family is an insult to your intelligence. Short of a desire for martyrdom, the vast majority of human beings do not confess to crimes they have not committed and willingly embrace the prospect of life in prison."

The jury had seen no evidence of devotion to family, either his first or second family, "which would drive Fred West to take the rap to enable Rosemary West to look after the younger children".

He said that Janet Leach — a prosecution witness who said that West admitted his confessions were not the full story — was "an unmitigated disaster" for the prosecution. He went on: "She told lies to the police, she told lies to you and, you may think, she was still prepared to bluff it out right up until she was confronted with the information from the newspaper group."

Mr Ferguson said the jury might well feel morally superior about Mrs West's "unconventional sex life" after a number of witnesses claimed she had abused them at her home in Gloucester. "It proves so far as they were concerned that Rosemary West was a cruel sexual assailant, and for that she stands trial either in this world or in the hereafter, and if found guilty should be punished. Does that prove that she's guilty of any one of these murders?

"The real issue is not whether Mrs Rosemary West had an unconventional sexual life, but whether the Crown has proved she is guilty of murder. At the end of the day, you can never be sure what happened in this case."

There was no evidence to link Rosemary West with the murders, Mr Ferguson told the jury. "On the one hand, siren voices are urging you to convict because Rosemary West is an evil woman. On the other hand, you have your consciences and you have your oath that you will base your verdicts on the evidence in this court."

It was for the jury to decide whether witnesses who claimed that they were abused at the hands of Mrs West had exaggerated their versions of events because they had sold their stories to newspapers.

Mr Justice Mantell will begin his summing up today. He has told the jurors that they will probably be asked to retire on Monday to consider their verdicts and should bring an overnight bag.



Rosemary West in her twenties: her unconventional sex life was raised in court



Cunningham: absent

Owner of animal cemetery convicted

By Robin Young

THE owner of a pet cemetery who promised bereaved animal lovers ornate coffins but buried their pets in binliners and rags is facing arrest after being convicted of fraud.

Freda Cunningham, who ran the Pet Care Crematorium on her farm at Weston upon Trent, Derbyshire, was yesterday convicted on seven counts of deception involving a total of £960.

The court was told that Cunningham had charged owners up to £185 to bury their pets. When she ran into financial difficulties and part of her land was repossessed owners who came to exhume their pets found the remains were not in the coffins in deep graves as they had been promised. In some cases the animals' remains were found only inches below the ground.

Mrs Cunningham was not in court to hear the guilty verdicts. She had sent a sick note saying that she was suffering from vertigo brought on by the stress of the trial.

After the verdicts the court was told Cunningham had been convicted of deception offences three times since 1970.

Judge Morrison, adjourning sentence, issued a warrant for her arrest and said: "She is a dishonest woman and has preyed on the unhappiness of people who in their distress trusted her. Although the offences do not involve great sums of money, they are despicable. Not one glimmer of remorse or apology has been offered."

Children walk out in meals protest

By Paul Wilkinson

A BOY of 14 was arrested for an alleged breach of the peace after almost 80 pupils walked out of their school canteen in a protest over the food. They occupied a yard for two hours.

The boy was detained when pupils pulled down part of a metal fence at Wellfield Comprehensive in Wingate, Co Durham. He was later released without charge after a lecture about his conduct.

Complaints about cold food and limited choice had been developing among the 1,150 pupils for several weeks. Tuesday's menu, which led to the walkout, included pizza, burgers, sausages and chips. Pudding was apple crumble and custard.

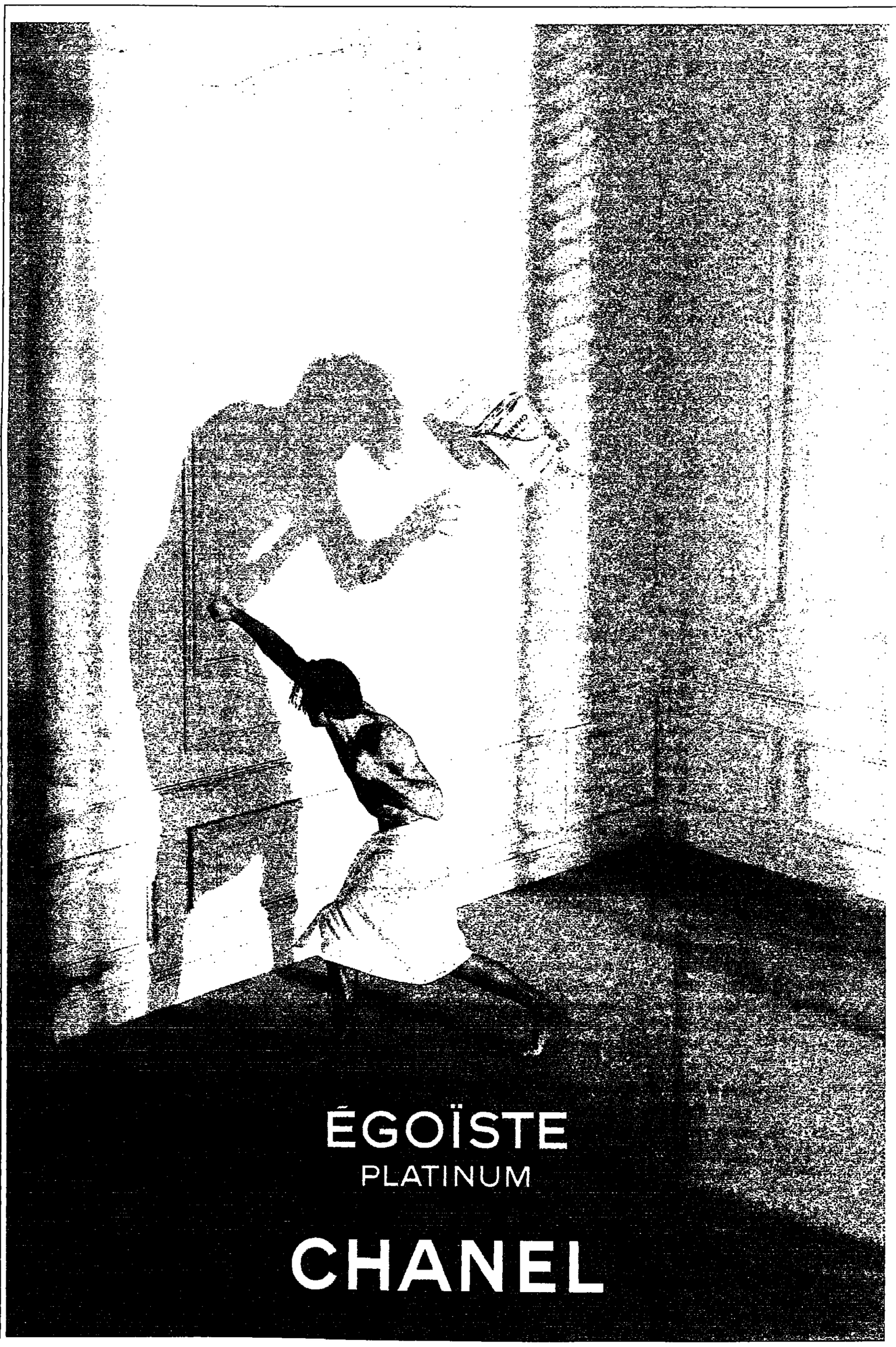
One 16-year-old said yesterday: "Dinners used to be nice, but now everyone dreads walking into the canteen. It has been going on for months and we can't take cold food anymore. We have complained, but nothing gets done. We want proper food and hot puddings."

A county council spokesman said: "There is a problem with meals not being as hot as they could be, but it is a matter we are trying to address."

CORRECTIONS

Simon Jenkins's article on the Prison Service, "Another fine mess of porridge" (October 18), quoted a passage from the Learmont report concerning the idiocies of the Prison Service. The Organisation Consulting Partnership, referred to in the article, point out that they had no hand in the development of the "idiocies" criticised in the Learmont report and were in fact engaged to support a streamlining of the Headquarters organisation. They also refute the suggestion, as to which there is no evidence, that they did any disservice to Mr Lewis.

☐ The telephone number given on page 2 of yesterday's Interface section for the Mori/Motorola survey should have been 01753 575555.



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Jobless programmer spread havoc with hacker's manual

Hi-tech vandal jailed for virus that wrecked computer files

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT



Richard Pile, unqualified but a skilled programmer inspired by *Red Dwarf*

A COMPUTER programmer who called himself the Black Baron was jailed for 18 months yesterday after he admitted planting viruses that caused damage costing hundreds of thousands of pounds. He is the first to have been prosecuted for this type of offence.

Christopher Pile, 26, an unemployed computer programmer from Plymouth, gave the names Pathogen and Queeg to the computer viruses he invented, from the television comedy *Red Dwarf*. He also designed a device that he called Smeg, another name from the programme, which made the viruses more difficult to find.

Pile, described in court as a mad boffin, created a training manual to help other virus writers to use Smeg, which is now available worldwide. It was found in America and Northern Ireland where it was being used by criminals, Exeter Crown Court was told.

Recorder Jeremy Griggs said the damage caused by Pile could run into millions of pounds. He said: "Those who seek to wreak mindless havoc on one of the vital tools of our age cannot expect lenient treatment."

He added that what Pile had designed would constitute a threat for the foreseeable future: the evidence had confirmed that a "Pandora's Box" had been opened and the encryption engine, Smeg, could not be reined back now it had been released.

Pile, a man with no academic qualifications but a skilled computer programmer, used a basic machine typical of that sold on the high street to write the two viruses, in contravention of the Computer Misuse Act of 1990.

The court was told that Smeg was the most sinister factor of the Pathogen and Queeg viruses, and an innocent-looking programme could contain the virus in disguise. It was a new type of encryption engine, which meant normal anti-virus programmes did not recognise it or know where to find it.

Pathogen, a virus capable of disrupting or destroying programs, would cause a quote from *Red Dwarf* to appear on computer screens: "Smoke me a kipper, I'll be back for breakfast. Unfortunately some of your data won't."

The judge said he could not accept that Pile was naive and he must have known the viruses would cause significant problems to computer users.

Pile pleaded guilty to five offences of unauthorised access to computers to facilitate crime, and five of unauthorised modification of computer material between 1993 and April 1994. He also admitted a charge of inciting others to spread viruses.

Ali Rafati, for Pile, said his client was a sad recluse who had worked alone on the offences. There was no financial motive or gain involved. He was desperate to do something with his life.

"In a way, he is the mad boffin creating an instrument for his own purposes, not having stopped to consider the full implications of where it was going to go," he said.

After Pile's arrest police went to a house in Belfast where they found a version of Smeg on a computer bulletin board called Illegality, the Unstoppable Crime Machine.

Even before they were activated the viruses caused massive damage and found their way into at least two big computer companies. Microprose, an international computer firm, estimated it lost up to £500,000 of business and used 480 staff hours checking more than a million files, while the computer firm Apricot had to shut down and check many of its machines. It found 22 out of 60 machines had the pathogen virus, the court was told.

The prosecution said that Pile released them in a calculated attempt to obtain notoriety for himself as the Black Baron.

Biblical morality is out of touch today, says bishop

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE head of the Anglican Church in Scotland has rejected calls for a return to biblical morality, saying that the moral code outlined in the Bible is out of date, chauvinistic and unable to answer the moral questions of the present generation.

The Most Rev Richard Holloway, Bishop of Edinburgh and Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, said: "The Bible is still a useful guide but we have to recognise that it is a creature of its time. This is particularly true of its moral systems.

"The morality of the Bible is time-conditioned, male-centred and patriarchal. We are forced, as rational creatures seeking human well-being, to find appropriate moral rules for our own culture that reflect our own needs, knowledge and understanding."

He said in a lecture at Strathclyde University on Tuesday night that a timeless moral code based on the Old Testament was "problematic". Every society needed a moral system, but it changed from culture to culture. "These systems are arbitrary," he said, adding that "moralising is one of the least attractive of human characteristics".

The bishop made headlines in May when he called on the Church to be more tolerant and understanding of adultery, saying that God had given human beings promiscuous genes.

In his speech to the university, entitled Is God a Fundamentalist?, he said that changes in the status of women made it "particularly difficult for us, living in a very different social system, with very different values and aspirations, to read what scripture says about the relations between men and women with any kind of authenticity. The thing to note here is that the community of faith, in any age, seems to accept most of the moral assumptions of the day and operates within them."

He said that modern society faced moral challanges unthinkable to previous generations. Contraception had totally altered human attitudes to sex. "Sex that is theoretically free from the consequences of pregnancy will, in practice, be thought of very differently from sex that almost invariably led to it.

"It is important to recognise that the moral life, which is fundamental to a healthy society and an ordered community, has more to do with our relationships with each other rather than our relationship with God." He added: "Scripture is studded with moral aphorisms and axioms that we can use to stimulate our thinking, without expecting them to dictate to us how we should live or what we should do in our highly complex, scientific culture at the end of the second millennium."

His speech attracted criticism from Christian fundamentalists. The Rev Alex MacDonald, of the Free Church of Scotland, said: "The bishop seems to deny moral absolutes. But if morality is absolutely relative, how can we say anything is wrong — murder, child abuse, oppression?"

Professor James Whyte, a former Moderator of the Church of Scotland, said that there was a small but growing number of people keen to stick to the certainty of scripture.

However, Father Tom Connelly, spokesman for the Roman Catholic Church, said that he largely agreed with the bishop's argument, saying that the Catholic Church believed morality was a combination of scripture and tradition.



Bishop Holloway: described need to find moral rules

Senior churchman faces six sex assault charges

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH

ONE of Scotland's leading fundamentalist churchmen, Professor Donald Macleod of the Free Church of Scotland, was ordered yesterday to appear in court later this month on six charges of sexual assault involving five women.

The charges at Edinburgh Sheriff Court allege that Professor Macleod, 54, who lectures in systematic theology at the Free Church College, Edinburgh, carried out the assaults between July 1985 and June 1993.

Professor Macleod, married with three grown-up sons, is alleged to have put his arms around four of the women and kissed them or attempted to kiss them. One charge alleges that he unbuttoned a woman's blouse and fondled her breasts as well as lifting her skirt and touching her.

Four of the incidents are alleged to have taken place at the Free Church College on The Mound and the other two at his home in Edinburgh and in a parked car.

Professor Macleod was not in court yesterday. Pam Watson, the depute-fiscal, asked Sheriff James Farrell to adjourn the case without plea until November 29, when Professor Macleod will have to appear in person or send a solicitor to represent him.

The Free Church of Scotland, known as "The Wee Frees", was formed in 1900 after half a century of schisms within the Church of Scotland. It is regarded as one of the last strongholds of traditional puritanism and sabbatarianism. Women are required to keep their heads covered in church and play no active part in services.

The Free Church has 19,000 regular churchgoers, of whom 6,000 are full church members. It is quite separate from the Free Presbyterian Church, known as the "Wee Wee Frees", formed in 1893.

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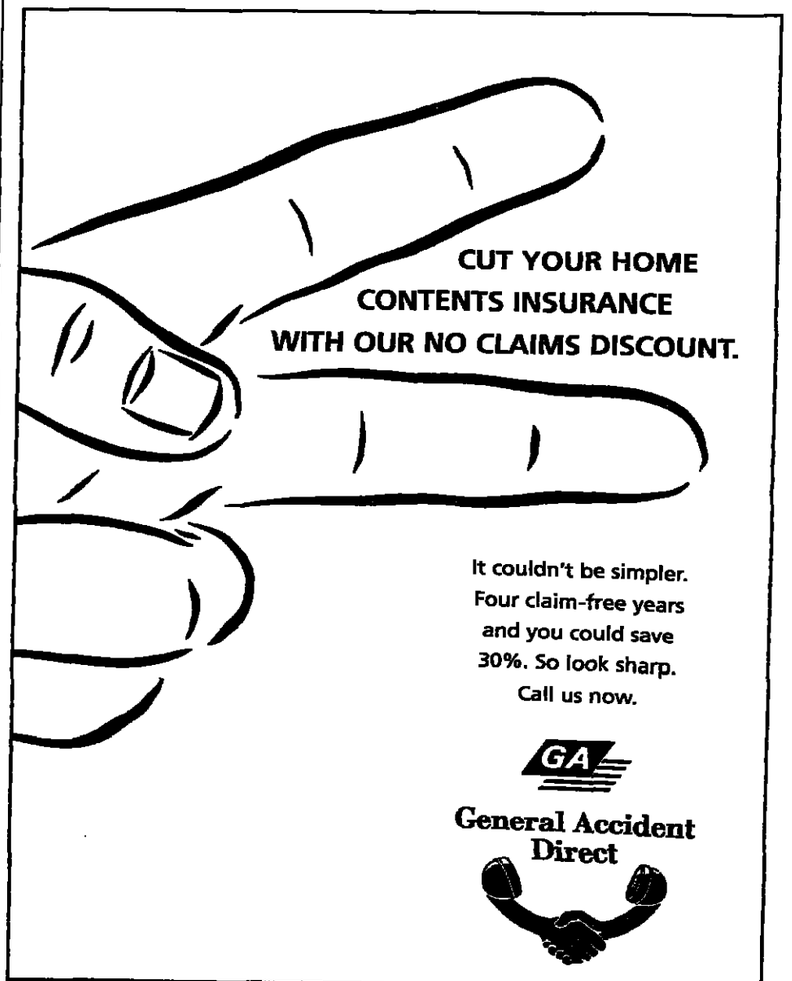
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Mayor on disability benefit 'was filmed digging potatoes'

BY PAUL WILKINSON

INVESTIGATORS from the Department of Social Security trailed a town's mayor for five months, videoing his activities, a court was told yesterday.

Clive Cawthrow, 55, who was paid a disability allowance after claiming he could walk no further than 20 yards — and that only with the aid of crutches — was recorded running up the town hall steps, climbing unaided in and out of the civic limousine and digging potatoes in his garden.

DSS officials set up the surveillance operation when they heard the former miner had taken on the demanding role of the first citizen of Barnsley in South Yorkshire last May. Recording began the day after Mr Cawthrow, a Labour councillor for 13 years, was installed.

John Dearden, for the DSS, told the town's stipendiary magistrate yesterday that after a medical examination four years ago Mr Cawthrow lost the mobility allowance he had claimed since March 1988. In 1992, when the disability living allowance was introduced, he applied for it but was turned down. However, it was granted on review and paid from July 1993.

Mr Cawthrow stated on claim forms that he suffered severe bouts of depression for which he was receiving psychiatric help. He had difficulty



Cawthrow: climbed into limousine unaided

walking more than 20 yards and could move only very slowly on level ground with the aid of sticks or crutches. Any further distance required a wheelchair. It could take him 35 minutes to get out of bed and half an hour to dress.

Mr Dearden said: "The DSS was surprised to see him appointed mayor in view of the content of that form." The investigators videoed him running up a street and on Yorkshire Day, August 1, he was seen walking round Barnsley town centre at the head of a procession. He was later filmed picking up an overturned bench in the Town Hall gardens and walking unaided into the council chamber. Mr Dearden said: "There were no signs of any walking stick, crutches or wheelchair." He pointed out that the form had included an undertaking to report any change of circumstances.

Mr Cawthrow was arrested at his home on October 8 and resigned immediately. Yesterday he appeared in court accused of stealing £653 from the DSS between May 20 and October 8 this year. Reporting restrictions were lifted at the request of Gerard Hale, his solicitor.

He said there had been a prejudicial interpretation put on matters by the prosecution. "There have been rumours that my client has been bungee jumping and all manner of things which need to be scotched," he said.

Mr Cawthrow, who hobbled into court with a walking stick, chose Crown Court trial. The hearing was adjourned for four weeks and he was granted unconditional bail.

After the hearing Mr Hale said: "The mayor strenuously denies the charge. He has received hundreds of letters of support. A fighting fund has been established to pay for his legal expenses. People are not only supporting him verbally, they are putting their money where their mouths are. We are also appealing for witnesses to establish the extent of his disability."

MICHAEL STEPHENS



Paul Keating posing with Gail Easdale, 23, his co-star in the *Tommy* revival

Pinball wizard checks out of Tesco

BY DALYA ALBERGE

A SUPERMARKET checkout assistant with no professional acting or singing experience is to star in a £2 million West End revival of the rock musical *Tommy*.

Paul Keating, 19, was chosen by directors and producers from more than 7,000 hopefuls for the part of the "deaf, dumb and blind kid who sure plays a mean pinball" in the new production, which opens at the Shaftesbury Theatre next March.

Mr Keating, who works at Tesco in Romford, east London, beat off competition from seven well-known pop stars for the one-year contract. André Ptaszynski, the producer, said: "He's a great star." He described Mr Keating's voice as "a strong, rock tenor that starts in the middle of the chest, not throaty". Pete Townshend, of The Who, who wrote the music and lyrics, said: "He's an incredibly talented actor, a great singer. I have no doubt that we have discovered a brilliant new star."

Mr Keating will leave the supermarket next week. "They were very pleased for me and the manager was thrilled. He said I could have my job back if it all falls through," he said.

As a child Mr Keating sang in the church choir. At 11 he appeared in a production of *Les Misérables*. He has been earning extra money by singing at weddings.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Husband's murder trial halted

The trial of Gordon Wardell for the murder of his wife Carol, a building society manager, was halted yesterday when a jury member disclosed unspecified information to officials at Oxford Crown Court.

Mr Justice Cresswell discharged the jury. The trial is expected to restart before a new jury today. Mr Wardell, 42, of Meriden, West Midlands, denies murder.

Nuclear protest

Six activists from the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament were detained and their dinghies confiscated by police when they tried to approach the *Pacific Pintail*, a ship used for carrying radioactive waste, at Canary Wharf, east London. They were released without charge.

Palace guard

Buckingham Palace has sought the services of a specialist bird-scarer, Steve Marston, to deter pigeons by installing a web of wires and nets over the roof. A spokeswoman said: "The Palace has many visitors, including heads of state, so it is appropriate it should be kept clean."

Scripps appeals

John Scripps, the Briton facing the death penalty in Singapore, has appealed against his conviction and sentence for the murder of a South African tourist, his defence lawyers said. He is believed to be the first Westerner to be sentenced to the city's mandatory death sentence for murder.

Holiday saviour

A British holidaymaker who saved a boy from a sinking ferry off Koh Samui, Thailand, has been invited to become his godfather. Arthur Hughes, 53, of Todmorden, West Yorkshire, supported Jessada Laohbhram, 3, in the sea for an hour before they were rescued.

Twin town veto

Forest Heath District Council, Newmarket, has voted against a plan to twin the town with Urakawa, Japan's horse-breeding capital. Local Second World War veterans were incensed that Japanese officials proposed the link soon after the 50th anniversary of the end of the war.

Magpies fly out

Kevin Keegan, manager of the Premiership leaders Newcastle United, flew to Brunei with four players after an appeal for coaching tips from the Sultan's brother, who runs a struggling football team. They are due back for Saturday's fixture with Aston Villa.

Football, page 48

HGV driver stuck in dead end lane

BY JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

AN ARTICULATED lorry laden with dog food is stuck on a narrow mountain road in South Wales after the English driver was given the wrong directions by a local passer-by.

Attempts at rescue by RAF Chinook helicopter have been abandoned, thwarted by overhead power lines and a farmer's complaints about prize cattle being frightened.

Kevin Smith, 25, became lost near the remote village of Craigcefnparc on Tuesday when he took the wrong turning off the M4 on his way to Llandovery. After asking a local man for instructions back to the main road, the £30,000, 50ft Mercedes lorry became wedged in a winding lane near a bridge and was unable to escape.

"I realised it was a bad move," he said yesterday. "I finally got to a section where the way ahead was a series of S-bends over bridges and there is no way of going back. Even the recovery team said it could be impossible to manoeuvre the trailer out."

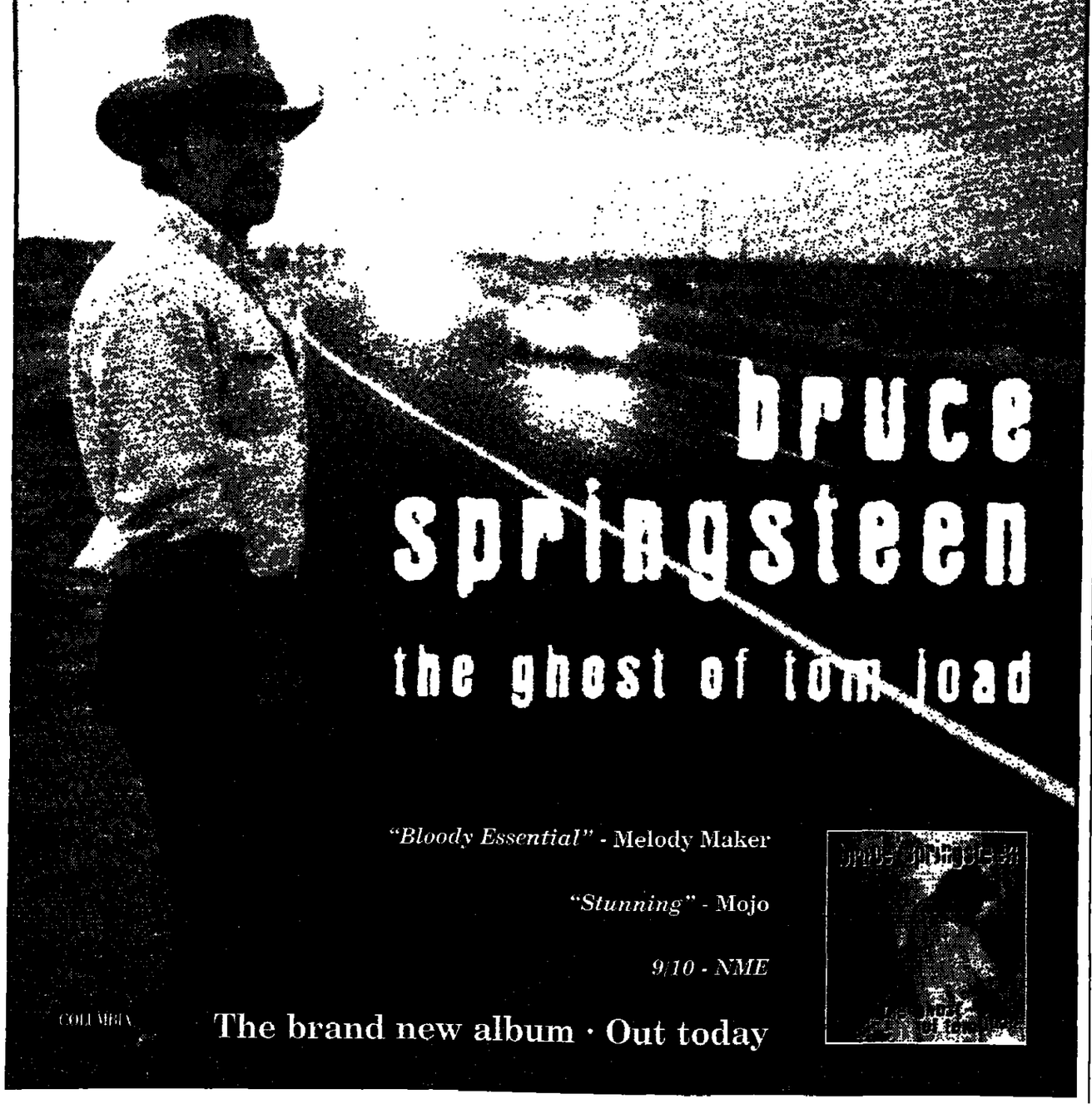
Mr Smith, 25, used his mobile telephone to call for help. He has spent two nights in the cab and had hospital treatment for a panic attack.

Later today, a specialist heavy vehicle recovery team will try to inch the lorry from the lane, but it will be the weekend before the truck is freed. If they fail it could become a permanent feature of the countryside.

The lorry was carrying its cargo for Owen Farming Transport of Bury St Edmunds, which Mr Smith joined only seven months ago. He said: "I've told my bosses and they laughed at first, but now I think the shock has set in. I'm sleeping in my cab. I've got plenty of food and the scenery is lovely, so I just have to wait and see."

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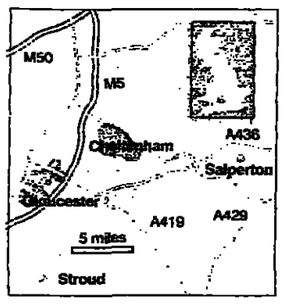
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Community at the heart of a secret: the rural scene in the Cotswold village of Salperton. its high-tech new owner, the self-made millionaire Barry Houghton, and the 18th-century manor house on the site of an old monastery

Telephone tycoon tells his villagers: it's not good to talk



BY ROBIN YOUNG

A TYCOON who made his fortune from the modern communications industry paid about £8 million for a carefully preserved Cotswold village and then asked the inhabitants to keep quiet about it.

Barry Houghton, whose company makes the base stations for cellular phones and cable links, was revealed yesterday as the new owner of Salperton in Gloucestershire. The community of 33 cottages around a manor house and Norman church has no street lighting, shop, public house or school, and generated its own electricity until a few years ago.

Villagers were told that life would continue unchanged and were asked to keep quiet about the sale two months ago. They complied. Mr Houghton, 47, and his family were introduced to their tenants at a party given by the vendor, Victor Watkins, the head of a London construction company. Ivy England, 79, widow of an estate foreman and a resident for 35 years, said yesterday: "Mr Houghton was keen not to have too much said about it, and people respected his wishes. You do what you are told, don't you?

"There were 120 people at the party, including all the villagers, neighbouring farmers and their families. I think everybody is very thankful that it is sold and that we are going to stay as we are. This is an idyllic place. I would never want to live anywhere else."

Mr Houghton is head of the Rainford Group, a Merseyside company he started in 1971 with £1,500, raised by selling his house. It was floated on the Stock Exchange this year and has a turnover of £64 million. The entrepreneur, who usually lives in Cheshire, was on a business trip to America yesterday.

His son Jason has taken over the daily running of the estate and has moved into Salperton Park, the 11-bedroom, 18th-century Grade II listed mansion house. He said: "We regard it as a private transaction and we do not want to say anything. There is no story here. We wanted the minimum of publicity."

Salperton, eight miles outside Cheltenham, was once the home of Sir Edward Hulton, the publisher of *Picture Post*. The church holds services only once a month.

The estate had been for sale for 18 months. Mr Watkins bought it for £3 million in 1981. He is staying on in the village, living in one of the houses.

The 1,700-acre estate was mentioned in the Domesday Book, and its name derives from the Old English "sealhburn-tun" meaning "settlement by a stream where the sallows [willows] grow". The manor house was once a monastery. There are two principal activities: farming and shooting. A working farm with 170 cattle and 600 sheep was included in the sale.

Joy West, 66, who has lived in the village for 43 years, said: "We are relieved the estate is not being broken up. It would have been the end of an era."

Cold War echoes as Leeson is sent to Far East

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

A HANDOVER recalling Cold War exchanges awaits Nick Leeson, the former Barings Bank trader, next week. His transfer to the custody of Singaporean officials will be made in a remote, sealed-off section of Frankfurt international airport.

The 28-year old was allowed to say farewell to his father, brothers and sisters earlier this week as he prepared to face forgery and fraud charges in Singapore. The supervised encounter was unusual for the unbending German prison authorities. Hartmut Jung-Silberreis, director of Hoechst prison in Frankfurt, said: "It was an extraordinary meeting but then it is also extraordinary that he has to go to Singapore."

Mr Leeson will be the first person extradited from Germany to Singapore under a treaty signed in 1872. The Bonn Justice Ministry said that after the acceptance of Singapore's extradition request there was no further reason to hold him in Germany.

Mr Leeson will be exchanging a relatively comfortable prison existence — he has been allowed to work out in a gym and has been given access to books and newspapers — for the uncertainty of a Singapore jail. In presenting the extradition request, lawyers emphasised that there was no question of Mr Leeson being caned if he is found guilty on charges relating to Baring's $1.4 billion Asian trading losses.

But the manner of his exit from Germany, where he has been held since March, cannot reassure him. Airport sources suggested yesterday that Mr Leeson will be transferred from prison shortly before dawn, will be held in a transit lounge and handed to Singaporean officials in handcuffs.

The point of this melodramatic transfer is to protect Mr Leeson's security and allow him to have "a quiet journey" to Singapore, according to Gernot Broschat, the Frankfurt prosecutor. The main concern is that reporters will try to book tickets on the same aircraft as Mr Leeson and seek to interview him.

Lawyers in Singapore have said that Mr Leeson's trial could be over quickly, since much of the groundwork had been done. Singapore last month published the findings of an investigation into the Barings collapse. The report blamed Mr Leeson for unauthorised dealings but held his superiors responsible for a lack of supervision.

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Howard gets tough on crime in readiness for election

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

LAW AND ORDER

MICHAEL HOWARD is to introduce two measures designed to portray the Government as taking a tough stand on crime and immigration in the run-up to the general election.

The Home Secretary will also try to regain the initiative on law and order from Labour with a White Paper outlining proposals for mandatory life sentences for repeat rapists and violent offenders.

But the size of the Government's majority has forced ministers to delay proposals to introduce identity cards despite strong backing from John Major and Mr Howard.

The Asylum and Immigration Bill, designed to clampdown on asylum seekers and illegal immigrants, is expected to be unveiled within the next few days.

Mr Howard will also publish measures to prevent defence "ambushes" of the prosecution in court. The Bill will create a statutory scheme for the disclosure of material to be used and not used in trials, and allow retrials in cases where an acquittal has been achieved through the nobbling of juries and witnesses.

But it is the Asylum Bill that will be most strongly opposed. Labour has accused the Government of playing the race card before the general election, and pointed out that an Asylum Bill was also introduced before the 1992 poll.

Ministers have defended the Bill by pointing to a surge in applications for asylum, which are estimated to reach 40,000, excluding dependants, this year. They claim that many are economic migrants rather than genuine refugees.

The most controversial proposal in the Bill will be the creation of a "white list" of countries deemed to be safe. Asylum applications from residents of those countries will be presumed to be unfounded.

An asylum applicant from a country on the list will have their case dealt with on an individual basis, but because the claim is presumed to be unfounded the burden of proof will be on the applicant.



Howard: backed down on ID card scheme

Applications deemed to be unfounded will be dealt with within 42 days. Appeals against removal to a safe third country will be allowed only after an applicant has left Britain. The Bill will also include measures to accelerate the asylum appeals process.

The Government is also seeking to restrict benefits to asylum applicants. The Government's social security advisory committee is studying plans to curb payments, which it is estimated will save £200 million a year. It wants to end benefit for people who apply for asylum at ports if they appeal against a decision to refuse them refugee status, and those applying for asylum after arriving in Britain as a visitor or student.

But Mr Howard's proposal to force employers to check the records of potential recruits in an effort to curb illegal immigration has run into trouble after strong opposition from employers' organisations. He will now publish a consultation paper on his plans.

The proposal, which was first considered and rejected when Kenneth Clarke was Home Secretary, has been resisted by Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, who felt it would be seen as racist, and Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, who was concerned at imposing an additional regulatory burden on industry.

The Criminal Investigations Bill will make it more difficult for defendants to introduce plausible but false defences at the last minute. It will also protect sensitive information including the identities of informants being disclosed to defendants.

Under the new Bill the prosecution would have to disclose any unused material that might undermine its case to the defence; after receiving this the defence would disclose information to the Crown about its case and then the prosecution would have to disclose any additional unused material that might assist the defence. It would be possible to draw an inference of guilt from a failure by the defence to comply with its duties. The Bill will also allow a retrial in a case where a defendant has walked free if the acquittal is tainted by a subsequent conviction for nobbling witnesses or jurors.

In a joint statement on the proposal, the Bar Council and Law Society called for "vital safeguards . . . to protect the innocent". Robert Roscoe, chairman of the Law Society's criminal law committee, said that the proposed reforms would lead to more wrongful convictions rather than fewer.



MI5 will gain power to enter crooks' homes

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

INTELLIGENCE

THE Security Service, which is to gain new powers to tackle organised and serious crime as well as terrorism, espionage and subversion, will be authorised to intercept the mail of suspected criminals and to enter their homes.

The wider remit for MI5 which was heralded in John Major's speech to the Conservative Party conference last month, will bring it closer to the police. Once the legislation amending the 1989 Security Service Act and the 1994 Intelligence Services Act has been passed by Parliament, MI5 will provide the police with intelligence gathering and analysis. The definition of organised or serious crime is expected to be one of the issues to be debated by MPs before the amendments are approved.

Security sources acknowledged that there would have to be clear limits agreed by Parliament. Under the Intelligence Services Act, MI6 and GCHQ are empowered to seek warrants to enter homes but their main interest is in gathering intelligence relating to threats to British interests abroad. The Act would have to be amended to include MI5 among the agencies empowered to seek warrants for tackling serious crime.

The Intelligence and Security Committee, the parliamentary oversight body headed by Tom King, the former Defence Secretary, is understood to be trying to define organised crime in anticipation of the new role for MI5. MPs will expect MI5's new responsibility to be restricted to areas such as money laundering, drug trafficking and organised crime groups which pose a "strategic threat". These could include the mafia, triads, Yardies and organisations run by former KGB and East European intelligence officers.

However, a much looser definition of serious crime appears in the 1985 Interception of Communications Act. It describes serious crime as an offence which involves the use of violence, results in substantial financial gain or is conducted by a large number of persons "in pursuit of a common purpose".

MI5's budget of about £150 million a year is not expected to be increased to cover the new role.

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Courts martial to be changed

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The review of the act, included in the Queen's Speech, will be conducted by a Commons select committee. Although there is no likelihood that courts martial will be abolished, Army chiefs now acknowledge the need for reform.

In particular, criticism has been directed at the procedure under which a single senior officer is responsible not only for convening a court martial and selecting the president and members of the court but also deciding on the charges to be preferred by defendants. Army chiefs agree that although this system has worked effectively it may be unwise to put so much responsibility in the hands of one person. They are also concerned that European law on human rights could force changes unless reforms are introduced.

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By Ian Murray

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Hopeful Tories see potential votes in nursery voucher scheme

BY JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

EDUCATION

PLANS to privatise student loans and introduce nursery vouchers will underline the widening gulf between the parties on education.

One of the two Bills will also give grant-maintained schools new borrowing powers. Ministers hope the change, coupled with "fast-track" opting out for state schools, will offer fresh momentum to the Government's flagship education policy.

Nursery vouchers are to be pioneered in at least four education authorities after Easter, but legislation is needed to give all parents of four-year-olds the right to a voucher in 1997. The vouchers, worth £1,100, are seen as a vote-winner for the Conservatives in the next general election.

The student loans proposals, however, are included as a means of reducing public spending and widening choice. A "twin-track" system would allow students to choose between a conventional student loan and a bank equivalent.

Borrowers would be offered the same subsidised rate from both sources. The Department for Education and Employment said last night that the switch should encourage a move towards loans tailored to individual needs.

The Bill would allow the Treasury to bridge some or all of the gap between commercial interest rates and those set for students. Discussions with the banks are continuing, and no scheme has yet been agreed in detail.

Ministers hoped that the banks would run the original scheme, but had to establish the Student Loans Company in 1990, using public money. Although the prospect of public subsidy and changes in student attitudes make the new package more attractive, both banks and building societies have remained sceptical.

This week, the department disclosed that more than £1 billion loaned to students is yet to be repaid. In 1994-5, students borrowed £538.8 million, and only £36.1 million was collected.

Student leaders condemned the reform. Jim Murphy, president of the National Union of Students, said: "Students will be outraged at the Government's plans to privatise student loans and allow others to profit from student hardship." University administrators were also disappointed at the absence of a radical solution to the problem of student support. Dr Gareth Roberts, chairman of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, said: "The repayments process is thoroughly flawed. Graduates should be able to pay back a sustainable percentage of their earnings for as long as it takes to repay the debt." David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, criticised a "two-tier system" of student debt. Applicants considered a poor risk by the banks would be forced into a second-rate scheme.

The Education Bill, on nursery vouchers and grant-maintained schools, is likely to prove equally controversial. Opposition parties remain critical of the voucher scheme and ministers are yet to finalise their proposals on accelerated opting out for church schools.

Church authorities have expressed doubts about removing parents' rights to determine their schools' status, and yesterday's programme did not promise legislation. Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, has extended the deadline for responses to the Government's proposals. She is likely to reach a compromise before finalising the Bill.

Mr Blunkett said that the "feeble" proposals were an embarrassment to the Government. "Instead of tackling the real issues the Government has lurched to the Right so much that it is only interested in introducing the extremist cast-offs of right-wing think-tanks."

Mackay prepares for battle over divorce reforms

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

FAMILY LAW

THE Lord Chancellor intends to stand firm on his proposals to allow "no fault" divorce after one year although his Bill faces a rough ride from right-wing MPs.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern's Family Law Bill, to be published today after the failure of a determined campaign from the Tory Right, will allow divorces after one year if the couple concerned have reached agreement on their finances and made arrangements for their children.

Although some MPs want to see the one year extended, Lord Mackay is unlikely to give way on that on the ground that the longer that people must wait, the more exceptions will have to be made to the rule.

The Bill ends the present "quickie divorce" procedure, which enables a couple to obtain a divorce in less than six months. This is used by 75 per cent of divorcing couples. Where couples do not allege fault, they can divorce after two years with agreement, or after five years without agreement.

The Bill's main aim is not to make divorce quicker or easier but to remove the acrimony by reducing the role of lawyers and the courts. It provides for a couple to file jointly for divorce, and builds in a requirement for couples to be told about mediation and other marriage support services.

Among the Bill's main elements are the compulsory information session and the requirement — in most cases — for couples to have considered using face-to-face mediation as a way of reaching agreement on children and finances.

Lord Mackay has already indicated substantial concessions and clarifications to the Bill in his effort to have it included in this legislative session.

The compulsory information session would not be public, nor held in a group. Ways of providing information on all the marriage support and legal services are to be tested in a pilot study. But they will include the private hire of a video film, backed by telephone calls. People will have to provide documentary evidence that they have received this information when they file their statement of marital breakdown. For the first time, this will contain no allegation of fault.

The Bill will encourage divorcing couples to use mediation although Lord Mackay has made clear that mediation will not be compulsory. In some cases, such as where there is domestic violence, it will be considered unsuitable.

But if a person chooses to go to a solicitor and the solicitor deems he or she is suitable for mediation then a discussion of the likely benefits will be arranged. Likewise, if a dispute over finances or children comes to court, then the court will have power to adjourn the case and require the parties to meet with a mediator to consider mediation at that stage.

There will be built-in incentives to reach agreement through mediation rather than in the courts. The statutory charge, which is a clawback made in legal aid cases by the Legal Aid Board from the proceeds of the sale of the couple's house, may not apply to mediated settlements.

The divorce itself, which cannot be applied for within the first 12 months of marriage, will be available after the 12-month "cooling off" period has elapsed and the couple has provided documentary evidence of the arrangements they have reached.

Courts can also grant the divorce order in certain limited circumstances where agreement has not been reached: if, for instance, either party is deliberately obstructive.

Nigel Shepherd, chairman of the Solicitors' Family Law Association, said: "The Lord Chancellor has shown a great deal of political courage in tackling divorce law reform and the law on domestic violence. We have argued consistently in favour of no-fault divorce. The attempt to find fault in marriage merely adds bitterness to an already difficult situation."

SIMON WALKER



Two members of the Royal Body Guard of the Yeomen of the Guard preparing to check the cellars beneath the House of Lords for barrels of gunpowder before the State Opening of Parliament yesterday. The earliest known record of the search taking place was in 1641, in reaction to a renewed threat of Catholic uprisings

Watchdog given more power

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

HEALTH

LEGISLATION to allow the health service ombudsman to investigate clinical complaints marks the culmination of a 20-year campaign to extend his powers beyond investigating cases of maladministration.

Every year, the ombudsman is forced to turn away a large proportion of the complaints referred to him because they deal with clinical matters. In 1994-5 he rejected 258 for that reason. When the plan to change the law was announced earlier this year William Reid, the present holder of the post, described it as the most significant in the 22 years his office has existed.

Medical organisations have argued that it would be inappropriate for a lay person without clinical expertise to sit in judgment on a clinical case. The only recourse for patients disatisfied with the NHS clinical complaints procedure, in which consultants sit in judgment on one another, has been to the courts.

The Health Service Commissioners (Amendment) Bill will also extend the jurisdiction of the ombudsman to include complaints about GPs, dentists pharmacists and opticians.

Under the Community Care (Direct Payments) Bill, disabled people will be given the money to buy their own community care instead of having to rely on social services.

Right wins concession on family law

LORD MACKAY has conceded several changes to his proposed reforms of the law on domestic violence aimed at placating the Tory Right (Frances Gibb writes). The Lord Chancellor has resurrected key proposals in the Family Law Bill but the price is a series of amendments intended mainly to demonstrate support for the family.

However he has refused to make changes to meet criticisms that courts, when making orders in cases of domestic violence, can look at the mental suffering of a person as well as the physical violence they have suffered. Nor has he agreed to change a proposed power for courts to reassign a tenancy from one person occupying the home to the other, whether they were joint tenants or not — a power favoured by local councils when relationships between council tenants break down.

Lord Mackay's proposals strengthen and rationalise existing remedies that can be obtained from the courts by victims of violence. Two kinds of orders can be obtained: non-molestation orders and occupation orders, which can be obtained to stop an attacker from entering the premises. The agreed changes all govern the obtaining of occupation orders, which were seized on by some Tory MPs as giving live-in lovers the right to oust their partner and take ownership of his home.

There is a new general principle that courts making an occupation order must have regard to the fact that people who are cohabiting have not made the same commitment as married couples.

The new Bill will distinguish between married and unmarried couples when it comes to the new "balance of harm" test that courts will apply when making the occupation orders.

Courts martial to be changed

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE FORCES

THE court martial system is expected to be changed when the Armed Forces Act is reviewed next year in the light of alleged human rights violations.

The review of the act, included in the Queen's Speech, will be conducted by a Commons Select Committee. Although there is no likelihood that courts martial will be abolished, Army chiefs now acknowledge the need for reform.

In particular, criticism has been directed at the procedure under which a single senior officer is responsible not only for convening a court martial and selecting the president and members of the court but also deciding on the charges to be faced by defendants. Army chiefs agree that although this system has worked effectively, it may be unwise to put so much responsibility in the hands of one person. They are also concerned that European law on human rights could force changes unless reforms are introduced.

Bottomley rejects pleas for TV rule flexibility

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

VIRGINIA BOTTOMLEY has rejected pleas for greater flexibility in the proposed new rules on cross-media ownership. The Broadcasting Bill, to be published at the end of the month, is expected to endorse the formula set out by Stephen Dorrell, her predecessor as Heritage Secretary, in May.

Mr Dorrell proposed that newspaper companies with less than 20 per cent of total national circulation would be able to own television companies, subject to a limit of 15 per cent of the total television audience.

Senior ministerial sources indicated yesterday that Mrs Bottomley would hold to this formula, which would exclude from terrestial television interests the two biggest national press groups — News International, which owns *The Times* and four other newspapers, and Mirror Group, owner of the Mirror and Independent titles.

The sources said that with the principal exception of News International, a subsidiary of Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation, the proposals had found favour with the media industry during the three-month consultation period. "The Bill is a liberalising measure and almost everyone accepts that and most welcome it," one insider said. News International strongly attacked the Government's blueprint in May, saying it would deter companies from investing to expand and encourage higher cover prices as a way of holding down circulation.



Cunningham: wants competitive companies

THE MEDIA

These views were echoed by some right-wing Conservative MPs, although most backed the Government at the time. Yesterday a number of senior Tories said the Government was nervous of its new legislation.

Jack Cunningham, the Shadow Heritage Secretary, said he thought the ownership thresholds were "in the right ballpark". But Labour was looking for flexibility in the legislation so that the industry was not saddled with a framework that quickly dated and so that companies were big enough to compete abroad.

Sir Peter Lloyd, a former broadcasting minister, called for greater flexibility in the regulatory regime. In the long run, he would like to see threats to competition dealt with by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission rather than "arbitrary" rules.

"We are running the risk of making our own media organisations attractive to foreign take-overs without allowing them to achieve critical mass so that they can expand their operations abroad," Sir Peter said.

The Broadcasting Bill will set out the new cross-media ownership rules, which would eventually be replaced by a simpler structure limiting any one owner to 10 per cent of the combined television, radio and newspaper marketplace.

The Government said the Bill would help British media companies to compete more effectively in overseas markets, allowing them to exploit opportunities in the expanding global media market.

Help and incentives for new buyers

BY IAN MURRAY

HOUSING

EXTRA help and incentives for people to buy their own homes are at the heart of a new Housing Bill to be introduced by the Government.

But the proposals, meant to create a further 1.5 million homeowners over the next decade, were immediately attacked by Labour, local authorities and housing charities as a recipe for homelessness. Critics said the Bill would fail to meet the growing need for social housing and predicted a shortage of nearly 400,000 units by the turn of the century.

Under the Bill, housing association tenants will be given the right to buy their homes. New tenants will qualify for grants of £8,000-£16,000 towards the purchase price, depending on where they live. The purchase price money will be given back to the housing associations to build new properties.

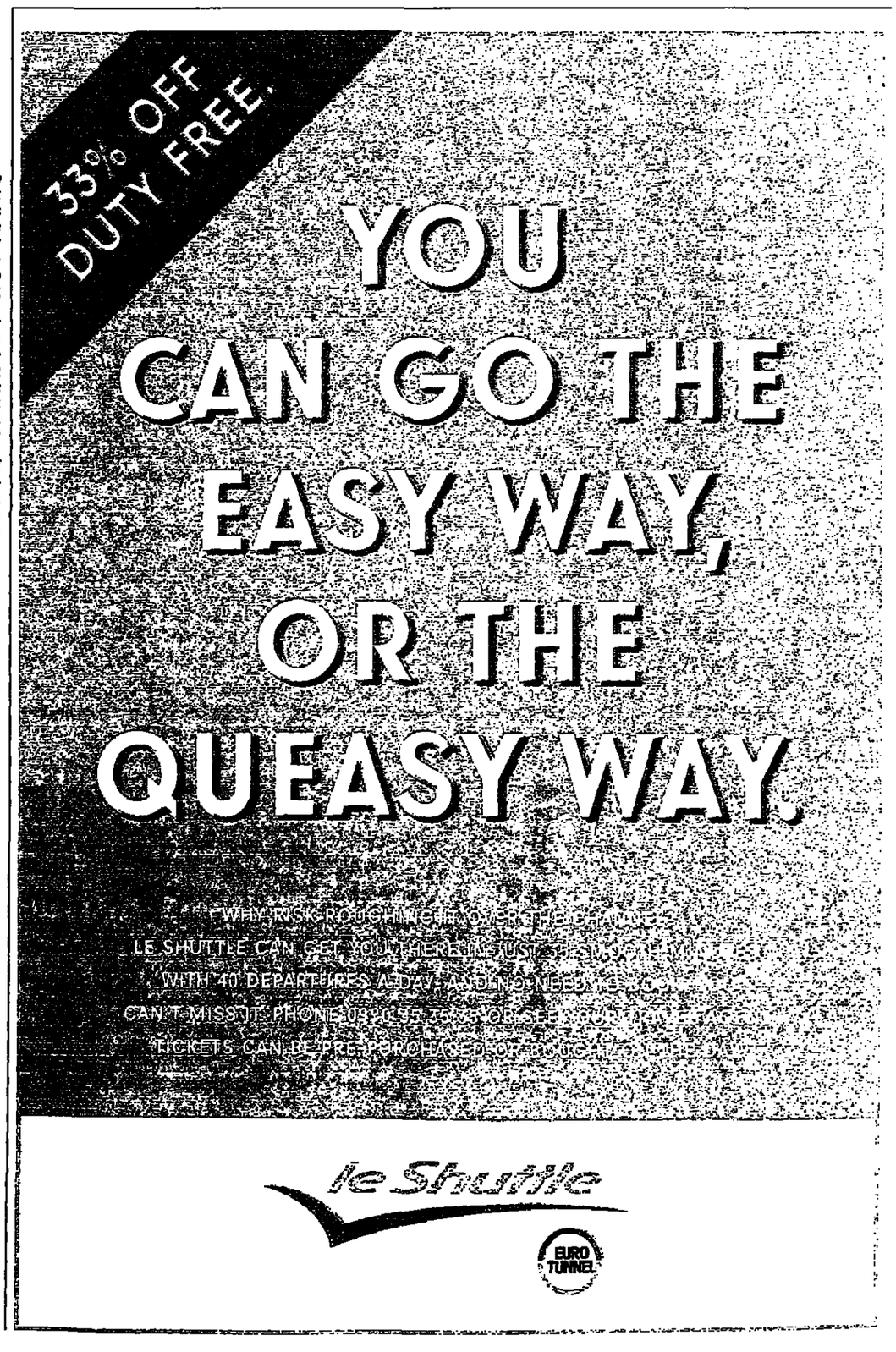
Since 80 per cent of all new housing association tenants are on housing benefit, very few will afford to buy. The Government's own estimates suggest that no more than 2,000 a year will consider buying.

Council tenants will be given the choice of having their estates taken over by private landlords if they think they will be better managed that way. At the same time the Government means to change the rule that allows the homeless to jump to the head of the housing queue for social housing. The aim is to allocate empty properties to those who have a good prior claim, leaving the homeless to make do with bed-and-breakfast accommodation and short-term lets in private property.

Other proposals include probationary one-year leases for social housing, with badly behaved tenants liable for eviction and being made homeless if they prove to be bad neighbours.

Nick Raynsford, the Shadow Housing Minister, described the proposals as a further betrayal of home-owners and the homeless. He said the new bill would be "a rag bag of measures prompted more by rightwing ideology than the need to tackle the country's housing crisis".

Nothing would be done to revive the housing market, solve negative equity or stop the 1,000 repossessions a week, he said.



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Major promises to seek new curbs on drug trade

BY JAMES LANDALE AND ALICE THOMSON

JOHN MAJOR announced fresh moves yesterday to curb the flow of illegal drugs into Britain and Europe.

Amid growing public concern over the case of Leah Betts, the Essex student who has been in a coma since taking an Ecstasy pill on her eighteenth birthday, the Prime Minister said Britain would call for European Union funds to help Caribbean states battling against drug smuggling from South America.

Opening the first of six days of debate on the Queen's Speech, Mr Major said: "Only in the last few days we have seen a particularly highly publicised and tragic case of how drugs can devastate a family. And in an evil trade like this, no drug is soft, and no drug is safe."

Mr Major discussed the move with President Chirac of France during his recent visit to Britain and with Caribbean leaders during last week's Commonwealth conference in New Zealand. "The intention would be to find the resources to stop the Caribbean being used as a way-station for drugs from Latin America en route to northern Europe." Mr

DEBATE

Major told the Commons. "If we can stop the drug trade there, we will damage it significantly and do a great service to many hundreds of thousands of people right the way throughout northern Europe."

The move came after Tony Blair, the Labour leader, described the planned programme of legislation as "a pathetic mouse of a Queen's Speech" and said the Prime Minister had run out of ideas.

Mr Blair said he could not comment on how the Queen responded when she first saw the address, but he added: "The reaction of most people would be, 'Is this it?'.

Labour, he said, would continue to support ministers over Northern Ireland. He accepted that some of the Bills may prove uncontentious but the rest of the Queen's Speech was "utterly irrelevant" to the interests of Britain. "It is about the interests of the Tory Party cobbling together any old bric-a-brac of legislation that can keep the Conservative Party in one piece and appease the right wing." He added: "It is as far from one-nation politics as it is possible to imagine."

Mr Blair told the House that Britain was now 18th in world economic rankings. "People often say about the Conservatives, they say they may be cruel but they're competent. This is an economic record of shame. They are cruel and incompetent in equal measure."

On political asylum, Mr Blair said: "We oppose bogus applications and fraud and we recognise the need for immigration controls. But race and immigration should not be the plaything of party politics." He called for the Bill to go before a Commons standing committee "and let it be a genuine consensual exercise in getting at the truth".

Mr Major rejected Mr Blair's claims and launched an attack on the Labour leader. "I have rarely heard such copper-plated nonsense as you fed to the House this afternoon," he told Mr Blair. "It was frankly humbug at its very worst. It was juvenile in its style of criticism. It was what we have come to expect from you — cheap soundbites and no indication of your real policy substance, if you have any at all."

He rejected Mr Blair's claim that Labour was now the only party supporting "one nation" policies. "There is only one party and it is mine that is truly the one- nation party in this country."

Mr Major told Mr Blair: "You would start by dividing up the UK and covering it with a rash of assemblies. You would then give the remnants to Brussels because you wouldn't want to be isolated on any issue. You would put the young out of work with a minimum wage. Those aren't the policies that would create one nation. They would weaken it, split it and divide it."

On divorce reforms, Mr Major said the measures would ensure couples faced up to their responsibilities to each other, and to their children. "No Conservative government led by me could introduce legislation that would undermine marriage and the role of the family. I believe these measures are emphatically pro-marriage."



The Queen on her way to the state opening of Parliament yesterday

Soldier thrown by bolting horse

A CAVALRYMAN riding with the Queen's coach was injured when he was thrown from his horse during the ceremonial procession.

The Life Guard fell when his mount bolted near the Victoria Memorial outside Buckingham Palace, the force of the fall breaking his sword. The Queen appeared not to have seen the accident.

Other carriages had to detour around the injured soldier as he lay on the ground. Police and ambulancemen lifted him onto a stretcher and into an ambulance which took him to hospital.

A St John Ambulance spokesman said the cavalryman injured the right side of his head, arm, elbow and hip and was briefly unconscious. He was expected to be discharged from hospital last night.

The horse returned to The Household Cavalry stables near by.



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Struggle against terrorism and organised crime still a priority

The following is an edited text of the Queen's Speech:

THE SPEECH

NATIONAL security remains of the highest importance to my Government. They will continue to support the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and to promote Britain's wider security interests by contributing to the maintenance of international peace and stability. The United Kingdom's minimum nuclear deterrent will be maintained.

My Government will encourage a co-operative relationship between Nato and Russia and will offer further help to countries in Central and Eastern Europe to consolidate democratic reforms and build stability and prosperity in the region. My Government will continue to work to preserve and modernise the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty. During their presidency of the Western European Union next year, they will work to enhance that organisation's effectiveness.

Preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction remains a priority. The fight against terrorism, organised crime, and drug misuse and trafficking, in the United Kingdom and elsewhere, will remain a priority.

My Government will continue to pursue the objective of transatlantic free trade in the context of world trade liberalisation. In the European Union, my Government will participate in the 1996 Inter-Governmental Conference and contribute to preparing the Union for further enlargement.

Reform of the United Nations, and efforts to enhance the organisation's effectiveness in peace-keeping, will remain an important objective. My Government will work to develop the capacity of the United Nations and regional organisations in the prevention of conflict. They will continue to promote a negotiated settlement in the former Yugoslavia.

My Government will continue working to strengthen ties between members of the Commonwealth. My Government will work for the prosperity and stability of Hong Kong. My Government will maintain support for the Middle East Peace Process.

In Northern Ireland my Government will continue to build on the present peace and to create the conditions for political progress through inclusive talks. They will facilitate economic development and promote fair and equitable treatment for all people in Northern Ireland.

My Government will continue with firm financial policies designed to support economic growth and rising employment, based on permanently low inflation. Fiscal policy will continue to be set to bring the public sector borrowing requirement back towards balance over the medium term. The share of national income taken by the public sector will be reduced.

My Government will improve the performance of the economy, by encouraging enterprise and competitiveness and offering support for small businesses. They will promote further deregulation. They will introduce a Bill to extend choice and competition in broadcasting by providing for new digital services and easing restrictions on media ownership. Legislation will again be brought before you to authorise the construction and operation of a high-speed rail link between London and the Channel Tunnel.

Increased competitiveness will be encouraged by raising educational and skill levels, advancing knowledge and promoting an efficient and flexible labour market. Legislation will be laid before you to expand nursery education for four-year-olds and to allow grant-maintained schools to borrow on the commercial market.

Legislation will be introduced to enable students to choose between private and public suppliers of subsidised loans. In Scotland, legislation will be introduced to reform education and training. My Government will continue to improve the quality of public services, through the Citizen's Charter programme and by other means.

> ‘Minimum nuclear deterrent will be maintained’

A Bill will be introduced to streamline further the handling of asylum applications and to strengthen enforcement of immigration controls.

Legislation will be laid before you to enable the Security Service to assist the law enforcement agencies in their work against organised crime; and to reform the procedures in criminal cases, including those for prosecution and defence disclosure.

Legislation will be introduced to extend the Parliamentary Health Service Commission's jurisdiction and to enable local authorities to make payments to particular groups of people who want to purchase their own community care. My Government will introduce legislation to reform the law governing divorce and other aspects of family law. Other measures, including other measures of law reform, will be laid before you.

My Lords and Members of the House of Commons, I pray that the blessing of Almighty God may rest upon your counsels.

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Mandela calls for Major to support Nigeria oil embargo

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

PRESIDENT MANDELA of South Africa moved decisively yesterday to reassert his moral authority and set the agenda for pressing Nigeria towards democracy, urging Britain to support oil sanctions against the military regime.

Mr Mandela, who is in New Zealand, said that he had exchanged views about sanctions in a telephone conversation with Mr Major and said he was seeking consultations with President Clinton. "They are the people who can bring the type of pressure General Abacha is unlikely to resist," Mr Mandela said.

The South African President has faced growing calls at home and abroad to give a firm lead in handling the confrontation with Nigeria after the execution of nine activists, including the writer Ken Saro-Wiwa, despite appeals for clemency to General Sani Abacha, Nigerian military ruler.

Mr Mandela seems determined to make amends after criticism by Nigerian pro-democracy activists that his Government's policy of quiet diplomacy was inappropriate and reminiscent of British-American "constructive engagement" on apartheid, which his African National Congress condemned.

Underlining the change in his approach to Nigeria's military regime since the start of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting last week, Mr Mandela said failure to apply oil sanctions would weaken any action against Nigeria because oil was the lifeblood of the military junta.

Calling on other countries to follow his lead, he said that attempts to turn the screws on the military regime would be ineffective without the backing of Nigeria's principal trading partners and the United Nations Security Council.

Mr Mandela has won support for his stand from Jim Bolger, the New Zealand Prime Minister. He has agreed to raise the issue with Mr Clinton and Li Peng, the Chinese Prime Minister, at the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation summit in Japan this weekend.

However, Mr Mandela evidently recognises that there was not much appetite for sanctions in countries with close economic ties to Nigeria and he said that he had not pressed Mr Major "very much". While South Africa's trade interests with Nigeria are negligible, the United States buys half of Nigeria's oil and last year Britain exported more than £450 million worth of goods to the West African state.

A senior South African government official said yesterday that the President's call for sanctions and its timing had caught many by surprise. The impression that Mr Mandela had not consulted other members of his Government was highlighted by comments by Aziz Pahad, the Deputy Foreign Minister. Hours before Mr Mandela said he would lobby world opinion to impose sanctions, Mr Pahad appeared to dismiss calls for sanctions against Nigeria on the grounds that South Africa did not have the necessary clout to twist the arms of other governments.

Mr Pahad yesterday issued a statement in which he claimed that the differences arose from a possible misunderstanding of what he had said. The Cabinet, also meeting yesterday, sought to play down any suggestions of a rift over the issue and gave its full backing to sanctions.

However, differences persist. While the Department of Foreign Affairs has been cautious, the ANC as a party has been bold in its criticism of Nigeria and is expected to give its full backing to sanctions.

Letters, page 21

Brussels: European Union ambassadors yesterday approved a total arms embargo and tight visa restrictions on Nigerian government officials to punish the military regime. But the EU stopped short of threatening oil sanctions. At the European Parliament, Ken Wiwa, son of the executed writer, Ken Saro-Wiwa, demanded an international oil embargo. (AP)

Winnie must pay £20,000 jet bill

BY INIGO GILMORE

WINNIE MANDELA lost a court battle over unpaid bills for the hire of a luxury jet yesterday, leaving her more than 100,000 rands (£20,000) out of pocket.

The Rand Supreme Court ruled in favour of a civil suit brought against the President's estranged wife by Foster Webb Air Charter in connection with a diamond-buying operation in Angola. The court heard how Mrs Mandela, allegedly out to make money quickly, hired a Lear jet at a cost of 53,674 rands for a delegation to collect diamonds from President dos Santos. He turned them back, saying he had no knowledge of the deal.

Judge John Myburgh refused to postpone the case to allow Mrs Mandela, who left for America on Sunday, to give evidence. "Quite simply, she took a chance that others would be able to give her defence for her. You have two witnesses who hardly help your case, and one has disappeared."

The witness was expected to support Mrs Mandela's contention that costs should be borne by Ben du Preez, who led the operation, or the charity Co-ordinated Anti-Poverty Programme, which she heads. The judge said Mrs Mandela had not explained her claim that the charity was liable for a luxury flight for a deal that lasted five minutes. He found that Mrs Mandela had concluded the contract with Foster Webb and that there was no substance for her defence.



Vivat Srisammasheap sits in the Bangkok stock exchange with a gun under his chin yesterday. Last night, he was recovering from a bullet wound in the neck

Bankrupt investor shoots himself

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN BANGKOK

A THAI investor who went bankrupt playing the stock market, shot himself in the neck in the lobby of the stock exchange building here yesterday. He was reported to be recovering last night.

"My blood will help clean the stock market," Vivat Srisammasheap, 49, said. He pulled the trigger as he sat on the floor of the stock exchange of Bangkok, demanding to speak to Seri Chintanaseri, its president.

A videotape of the shooting was taken by a television cameraman. Police rushed in as Mr Vivat slumped over.

Suvicha Mingkwan, a stock exchange official, said Mr Vivat told police earlier that he had gone bankrupt, and claimed to have lost between 30 million (£775,000) and 40 million baht.

Chaiyat Sahapsakul, a spokesman for the exchange, tried to calm Mr Vivat as Mr Seri made his way to the lobby. "But he didn't wait," the official said. Mr Vivat had been in a group of up to 80 investors who had protested outside Mr Seri's office yesterday. They wanted Mr Seri and the board of governors to resign. They also demanded rule changes to help boost the share index, which has fallen to its lowest level in almost six months. After the group left, Mr Vivat stayed in the lobby and pulled out his gun.

His broker said he had invested when the index was very high and had been losing money for nearly two years.

Hindu extremists accuse Mother Teresa



Mother Teresa: chided

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

THE Missionaries of Charity, Mother Teresa's order, is worried by growing criticism of its activities in the slums of Calcutta and elsewhere in India.

For decades the Albanian-born nun's work was regarded as beyond criticism, but this year she has encountered unprecedented, if gentle, chiding in newspaper articles. She has also come under fierce attack by Hindu zealots. Calcutta's politicians and middle classes were quietly ambivalent about her work, which helped make the city's name synonymous with poverty and cruelty.

In recent months the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, an extreme Hindu political organisation, has poured scorn on Mother Teresa, 85, and accused her of converting Hindus to Christianity. The order denied the accusation. Others have railed at Mother Teresa for opposing contraception and abortion in a country desperately needing to curb population growth.

According to the *Telegraph* in Calcutta, the order believes that Mother Teresa's stock reply to critics — "I will pray for them" — sounds too defensive. A meeting of sisters, Catholic clergy and volunteer workers at Mother House, the headquarters in Calcutta, discussed the attacks on Mother Teresa, 85, and decided it was time to sound a "stern note" in reply. This will reportedly take the form of responding to all criticism in future.

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Russia, America, Canada and Germany in space as Atlantis docks with Mir



Thomas Reiter, right, the German cosmonaut, greets astronauts Chris Hadfield, of Canada, and American Jerry Ross. Russia's Yuri Gidzenko is at the back

'You guys made the incredible look easy'

FROM VICKI VAUGHAN IN CAPE CANAVERAL, FLORIDA

THE *Atlantis* space shuttle gingerly edged up to Russia's *Mir* space station and docked with it less than an hour later yesterday, about 245 miles above the Earth.

The five astronauts led by Ken Cameron, the *Atlantis* commander, greeted the three *Mir* cosmonauts less than three hours later with traditional Russian gifts of sweets and chocolate.

The shuttle crew floated through the module they had installed on *Mir* and the crews posed for pictures amid a jumble of equipment in the space station. The astronauts smiled and waved, flanked by flags of the nations participating in the docking — Russia, the United States, Germany and Canada. About 50 Nasa personnel will visit the giant *Mir* station next year in an international venture.

Yesterday, the spacemen received a telephone call from Wil Trafton, Nasa's director of the international space station. He told them: "You guys made the incredible look very easy. This is an important step in the building of an international space station."

The head of the Russian space agency and the Russian Academy of Sciences also offered congratulations from the national control centre in Kaliningrad, near Moscow.

Later, the *Atlantis* crew were to present other gifts to the cosmonauts, including a collapsible guitar, to relieve the tedium of their long stay in space. The *Mir* crew, which includes two Russians and a German, has been in orbit since September 3. They will return to Earth in February.

The delicate docking was important because the 15ft docking module installed will be used by every other shuttle to dock with *Mir*.

The shuttle crew transferred water, clothing and letters from home to *Mir*. The crews will spend three days together and share a meal of shrimp cocktail, steak, potatoes, cherry pie and ice cream. *Atlantis* should return to Earth on Monday. *(Reuter)*



The *Mir* space station yesterday, with the Russian-built orange docking module below. It was ferried up by astronauts on the *Atlantis* space shuttle

Roh facing arrest in $654m Seoul corruption inquiry

FROM SHIM SUNG WON IN SEOUL

SOUTH KOREA'S former President, Roh Tae Woo, was called in yesterday by state prosecutors for the second time to be questioned over his $654 million (£419 million) slush fund. Media reports said that his arrest was imminent.

Early editions of several South Korean morning newspapers carried headlines saying reading "Mr Roh arrested today". State television quoted prosecutors as saying Mr Roh would be arrested in the early hours of this morning. They say they have proof that Mr Roh took bribes from big business, signalling that only the timing of his arrest is at issue.

Mr Roh would be the first South Korean head of state to face criminal action. The maximum penalty for bribery in South Korea is life in jail.

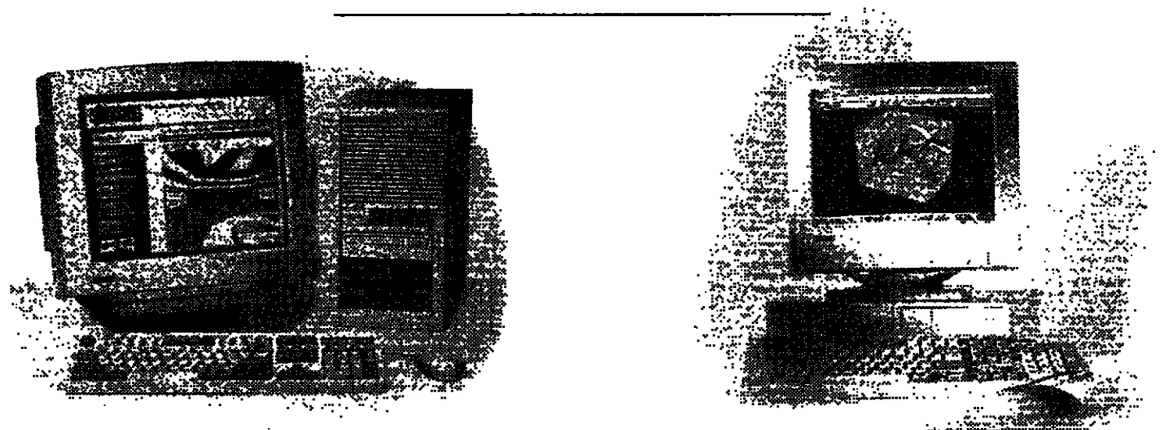
A prosecution official said that a warrant for Mr Roh's arrest would not be sought overnight. However, he did not rule out an arrest some time today. Mr Roh was summoned after one of his aides quoted him as threatening to tell all about his funding of candidates for the 1992 presidential election, which was won by Kim Young Sam. Opposition groups saw this as a veiled warning to Mr Kim and urged Mr Roh to tell the truth. The biggest quertion is whether Mr Kim took money from Mr Roh. The President has denied receiving "a single cent", but opinion polls suggest that most South Koreans think he is lying.

Kim Dae Jung, the opposition leader, has confessed to accepting several million dollars from Mr Roh, damaging his chances in parliamentary polls next April.

Ahn Kang Min, who is leading the investigation, said Mr Roh had warned him of the dangers of taking the inquiry too far. He said Mr Roh told him that if prosecutors allowed public opinion to be their guide "the wnole nation could be unhappy". Thousands of demonstrators have demanded jail for Mr Roh and a criminal investigation of President Kim.

In a tearful confession ast month, the four-star general, 62, confessed to plundering $654 million from business groups for a political war chest during his 1988-93 term. He says he still has $242 million in his secret coffers. Mr Ahn said yesterday that prosecutors had discoveredan additional 35.5 billion won ($46 million) in investment in property under the names of Mr Roh's relatives. *(Reuter)*

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US Administration raids pension funds to stay in business

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE Clinton Administration was forced to raid pension funds to prevent the country from defaulting yesterday as the government shutdown entered its second day with no resolution in sight.

Robert Rubin, the Treasury Secretary, borrowed an initial $61 billion (£39 billion) from two government pension funds to forestall America's first-ever default. The Government had reached its congressionally-approved debt ceiling of $4,900 billion and had no other way of paying $25 billion due yesterday to holders of US securities.

"This is no way for a great nation to manage its financial affairs," Mr Rubin protested. But President Clinton seemed to be routing the Republicans in the battle for public opinion.

"*We are at an impasse*," declared Leon Panetta, the White House chief of staff, after the collapse on Tuesday night of talks on temporary ways to fund the Government and keep it creditworthy while the White House and Republicans battle over the budgetary future.

Mr Panetta warned that the shutdown could continue next week. Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, was even gloomier. He said the two sides were not "an inch closer" and warned that the confrontation "could well last 90 days". The White House spoke of "irreconcilable differences" and said no meetings were scheduled for yesterday.

A Gallup poll showed that 49 per cent of Americans blamed Republican congressional leaders for the debacle that has laid off 800,000 non-essential federal employees, while 26 per cent blamed Mr Clinton. The comparable figures in a poll on Tuesday for *The Washington Post* were 46 and 27 per cent.

As President, Mr Clinton possesses a much louder megaphone than the hydra-headed congressional leadership. He is exploiting the advantage to the full. Though careful always to reiterate his desire for a balanced budget, he portrays himself as the courageous defender of the social programmes Americans hold most dear, and the Republicans as ruthless, irresponsible extremists bent on destroying the country's social fabric.



Rubin: "This is no way for a nation to manage"

"He's prepared to fight all winter on that line," said an aide. The polls demonstrate its potency. By 48 per cent to 38, respondents to yesterday's Gallup survey believed that protecting the popular Medicare health insurance programme for the elderly was more important than balancing the federal budget.

But the Republicans show no sign of capitulating. Mr Gingrich and his congressional cohorts believe if they break their promise, made during last year's congressional elections, of a balanced budget by 2002, they will be rejected in 1996 just as surely as President Bush was after he reneged on his "no new taxes" pledge.

The Republicans also contend that Mr Clinton's "demagoguery" will buy him only temporary popularity and that voters will come to realise that the long-term benefits of restoring sound national finances far outweigh the short-term pain of cuts.

The Republicans' role model is John Engler, the Michigan Governor, who saw his popularity plunge to 18 per cent when he slashed state spending but went on comfortably to win re-election.



Margalit Harshefi, right, handcuffed to a policewoman, arriving at court in Tel Aviv for a remand hearing yesterday

Woman arrested over Rabin killing

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN PETAH TIKVA, TEL AVIV

A JEWISH woman, suspected of knowing about the right-wing plot that led to the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, was charged in court yesterday and remanded in custody. Police said Margalit Harshefi, 20, played a central role in the murder of the Israeli Prime Minister, to sabotage the peace process with the Palestine Liberation Organisation, and of plotting to attack Palestinian targets. She has denied the charges. Her detention brings to eight the number of people held in connection with the assassination. She is a resident of the hardcore Jewish settlement of Beit El, and a law student at Bar Ilan religious university, where Yigal Amir, 25, the self-confessed killer of Rabin, also studied. Police investigating the case claimed that the killing was part of a well-organised conspiracy. They told the court that Ms Harshefi had been arrested soon after the assassination but was then released. She was rearrested after new information had been received. President Weizman yesterday officially asked Shimon Peres, the acting Prime Minister, to form a new government. In the Gaza Strip, security was tightened for Yassir Arafat after the discovery of a plot to assassinate the PLO chairman. News of the attempt was leaked yesterday after the arrests last week of up to five members of the Abu Nidal terrorist faction.

Leading article, page 21

UN plea to stem flood of refugees

Geneva: The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees yesterday appealed for a new preventive approach to the world's refugee crisis (Peter Capella writes).

Sadako Ogata, presenting her second report, said that the UNHCR is taking care of about 27 million refugees, nearly three times more than ten years ago. The report added that a growing number of people are being displaced by civil wars.

Poll date set

Moscow: The Russian Federation Council has voted to hold the next presidential election on June 16, 1996. President Yeltsin recommended that a date be set to ease speculation that the poll might be postponed. *(Reuter)*

Tamil vote delay

Colombo: *The Sri Lankan* Government postponed for a year local elections, scheduled for this week in the Tamil regions of the east and the north, after troops closed in on the rebel stronghold of Jaffna. *(Reuter)*

Deadly binge

Moscow: Russian men drink on average half a bottle of vodka a day — about half a pint — experts at a conference on alcoholism said. They urged the Government to act to stop Russian men drinking themselves to death. *(Reuter)*

Congress husband 'runs off with $2m'

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

LESS than a year ago, Enid Waldholtz was a darling of the new Republican order. Her revolutionary conservatism had won her not only the admiration of Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, but a seat on one of the most powerful committees in Congress.

She had a new husband, a baby on the way and a glittering future as a self-styled private citizen "on temporary assignment" in Washington. All that changed yesterday after the Utah politician filed for divorce, and launched a blistering attack on Joseph, the husband she said had vanished last Saturday and is suspected of taking $2 million (£1.3 million) from their joint bank account.

Mrs Waldholtz, 37, a Mormon, said: "I want this man tracked down, arrested and punished for what he has done to me, my family and the people of Utah." Mr Waldholtz, 32, who worked as a volunteer in her office, was last seen at Washington National Airport and was thought to be heading for Canada. The Justice Department said it had not issued an arrest warrant as there was no certainty he had broken the law.

The inquiry has opened a political can of worms for Mrs Waldholtz, whose spending of $1.8 million in personal funds to win her Salt Lake City seat last year has been the subject of increasing controversy. A former corporate lawyer, Mrs Waldholtz first claimed most of the money was her own, then said the funds came from a swap of assets between Mr Waldholtz and her father.

Even if Mr Waldholtz has absconded with the $2 million, this may not be deemed to be a crime if the money was in a joint account. What would be illegal, however, is if someone other than the candidate had contributed more than $1,000 to her campaign.

Computers blow horn on cabbies

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

MORE than a tenth of New York's cabbies do not have driving licences. Police made the discovery after marrying their computer records to the city's Taxi and Limousine Commission.

The revelation, though disquieting, may not surprise visitors who have hurtled down Manhattan's avenues in the back of a yellow cab.

The invariably ill-shaven drivers, who often do not speak English, have a mulish disregard for traffic regulations and lane discipline. Many cab bumpers betray the marks of collisions, and passengers are advised to hang on to the door straps.

The commission has ordered the 1,582 cabbies without driving licences to surrender their cab permits. The move may create a temporary taxi shortage, but has been welcomed by law-abiding drivers.

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Santer warns EU to resist resurgence of 1930s nationalism

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

EUROPE must resist the lure of 1930s-style nationalism and take a bold step forward at next year's conference to revamp the Maastricht treaty, Jacques Santer, the President of the European Commission, said yesterday.

Mr Santer was responding, in a "state of the Union" speech, to concern on the Continent that the European ship risks drifting onto the rocks thanks largely to British resistance, French nationalism and German muscle-flexing over monetary union.

Too many countries seemed to want to go it alone in a nationalist free-for-all, he told the European Parliament. "Let us forget these ghosts from the 1930s," he declared. The inter-governmental conference (IGC), to review the Maastricht treaty next year, was in danger of adopting a "too minimalist" agenda that could paralyse the Union when it was enlarged to include states in Central and Eastern Europe.

Mr Santer said he was worried that some member states "refuse to accept that European union has been and remains a political aim. The Union is not a supermarket where everyone can pick what he feels like."

The 1930s image was invoked more sharply by Klaus Hansch, the German president of the European Parliament. "Let us be under no illusions: the new nationalism which despises, or even seeks to destroy, what we have been able to create in the last 50 years in Western Europe will take us straight back to the 1930s," he said. His comments spoke for the growing sense in the parliament that it will win few if any more powers in the Maastricht review.

The bleak talk, also echoed in a speech by Felipe Gonzalez, the federal-minded Prime Minister of Spain, which currently is the Union president, reflected worries among guardians of the Euro-flame that the IGC will produce a modest brush-up along the lines favoured by Britain. Compounding their gloom are the almost daily calls from Germany for tougher terms which seem destined to put monetary union, scheduled for launch in 1999, out of reach for many would-be members.



Santer: bleak "state of the Union" address

For the Germans, the Brussels Commission and their federal-minded allies, the most telling snapshot of the confusion over the IGC comes from a report nearing completion by the team of senior officials entrusted with mapping the road to reform. Instead of drafting an agenda, the Reflection Group has appalled the federalists and pleased Britain by coming up with a long-winded list of options, repeatedly stating that there was no consensus on any of them.

The draft will be refined before the Madrid summit next month but it makes clear that there is little stomach for a radical overhaul of European institutions in the run-up to enlargement.

The voice of Britain, represented by David Davis, the Foreign Office Minister, comes through repeatedly in opposition to any moves to apply majority voting to the key areas of foreign and security policy and home and legal affairs. Britain, it notes, stands alone in refusing to contemplate any extension of the European Parliament's powers.

Bonn to sell single currency

Bonn: The German Government is to launch a multi-million mark propaganda campaign to sell European monetary union to a sceptical nation (Roger Boyes writes).

Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, is compiling a book, with contributions from Bundesbank directors, outlining the merits of a European currency. The book forms part of the "information crusade" that will begin in January. Brochures and pamphlets are to be distributed and the plans include a television advertising campaign.

Details of the plan were leaked just as Klaus Hänsch, the president of the European Parliament, appealed to all European governments to persuade their citizens more energetically of the need for EMU. "Monetary union will not fail because of criticism from its opponents, but because its supporters do not sufficiently explain, defend or realise their ideas," Herr Hänsch told the Strasbourg parliament.

A senior Bonn politician concerned with monetary union shrugged off opinion polls showing a constant two-thirds opposition to abandoning the mark. "If you asked Germans about forming a national army in the 1950s, you would have got a similar response ... but that doesn't mean we shouldn't go ahead. It's a question of political leadership."



A Masai herdsman near Mount Kilimanjaro, Tanzania, with one of his camels, which are being substituted for cows in the region because they are better able to survive droughts and cause less damage to the environment

Toy boycott plea by Chinese dissident

BY OLIVER AUGUST

HARRY WU, the Chinese dissident, is appealing to British consumers not to buy Chinese Christmas toys because they are made by slave labourers.

"The British should not buy Christmas lights or Christmas toys for their kids made with Chinese blood and tears. The British people should not take it. You violate your own principles," he said.

Mr Wu is in London to receive the 1995 Anti-Slavery Award from Anti-Slavery International, a human rights organisation, for his work in trying to expose Chinese labour camps. He has returned to China several times, risking his life, and has filmed the camps for the BBC.

He spent 19 years in Chinese labour camps where he was one of eight million prisoners, ranging from common criminals to political dissidents. He alleges that many of China's export products, including Christmas gifts, are manufactured by these prisoners under life-threatening conditions.

The import of goods made by slaves is not allowed under British law, but due to China's secretiveness it is almost impossible to establish how goods are produced.

Mr Wu became an American citizen after his release in 1985 and is now campaigning against what he calls the "Chinese gulags". He said yesterday that he may go back to China as part of his campaign.

Clinton renews plea for Bosnia mission

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton yesterday made his strongest and most detailed appeal to Congress for the need to send up to 20,000 American troops to enforce an eventual peace settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He said, however, that he could not predict how many casualties America might suffer.

In a nine-page letter to Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, Mr Clinton said American participation in a Nato peacekeeping operation would cost as much as $1.5 billion (£967 million) for one year. He estimated that the United States would need to spend a further $600 million over several years to rebuild Bosnia.

Mr Clinton hoped to confound Republican critics of his Bosnian policy who have argued strenuously that America has no vital interests in the Balkans and should not risk its soldiers.

"There will be no peace without America's engagement," he said. "If we turn our backs on this responsibility, the damage to America's ability to lead, not just in Nato but in pursuit around the world of our interests in peace and prosperity, would be profound ... It is not possible to make meaningful casualty predictions."

The message came after Mr Gingrich and Robert Dole, the Senate majority leader, had written to the White House, saying support for an American deployment in the Balkans was "virtually nil".

NEWS IN BRIEF

Prisoners take over Athens jail

Athens: Hundreds of rampaging prisoners, including many foreigners, seized Athens's top security jail and were holding six staff hostage, police said yesterday.

Riot police surrounded Korydallos prison after prisoners rioted through the night, lighting fires, ransacking facilities and raiding the hospital for drugs.

Their demands ranged from better food to less overcrowding. The prison, built for 400, now houses more than 1,500. *(Reuter)*

Murder claim

Cairo: A previously unknown group calling itself the International Justice Group said it shot an Egyptian diplomat, Ahmed Alaa Nazmi, who was killed on Monday in Geneva. *(Reuter)*

Nuclear plea

The Hague: Britain and America urged the International Court of Justice to reject a request from the United Nations General Assembly for a ruling on the legal status of nuclear weapons. *(Reuter)*

Visas stopped

Hong Kong: China said it would no longer issue on-the-spot visas to Britons crossing into Shenzhen. Eight Britons were detained and fined £41 each this week after they asked for instant visas. *(AFP)*

Warplane found

Canberra: An Australian Bristol Beaufighter with the remains of two crewmen, has been found in jungle in Papua New Guinea. It disappeared during the Second World War. *(Reuter)*

Running battle

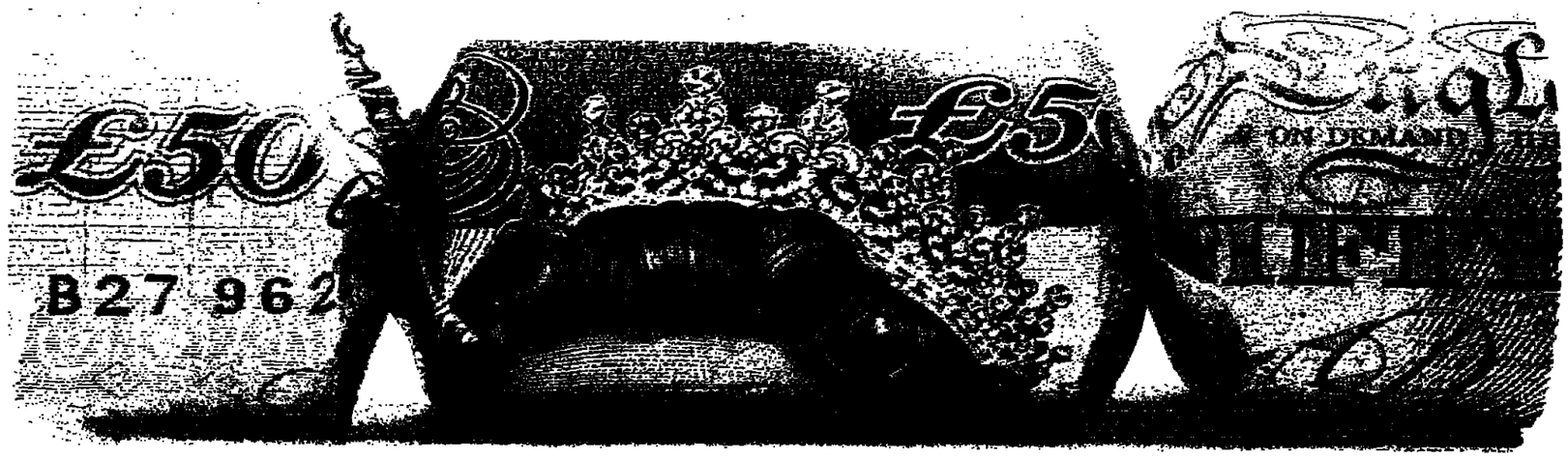
Peking: A worker locked overnight by mistake in a freezer room escaped death by spending the whole night running, a news agency reported. He is recovering with severely frostbitten hands and feet. *(AFP)*

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France hopes spending cuts will reduce deficit in time for European monetary union

Juppé unveils plans for radical reform of welfare system

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE French Government unveiled radical plans for reforming the country's debt-burdened welfare system yesterday, including a new tax and an alteration in the constitution allowing parliament to set an annual ceiling on social security spending.

The raft of reforms, unveiled by Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, in parliament yesterday, represents the latest and most drastic effort by the Government to slash public expenditure and reduce France's deficit in time for European monetary union. With an overwhelming centre-right majority, the Government was expected to win a vote of confidence last night despite earlier criticisms from within the ruling coalition and widespread union resentment.

The central plank of the Juppé welfare plan is a new income tax of 0.5 per cent to be levied on all but France's poorest citizens. The tax will be used to pay off the accumulated welfare deficit of 230 billion francs (£30 billion) over the next 13 years, M Juppé said. The new levy will apply to interest on savings and unemployment pay, which are currently exempt, as well as salaries and unearned income, while the existing welfare tax will be widened to cover almost all forms of income.

France's unwieldy and costly welfare system covers healthcare, state pensions and family allowances. There is currently no fixed limit on health spending and M Juppé said yesterday that the Government would seek constitutional amendments next year to give parliament the power to set an annual social security budget. The Prime Minister described the constitutional changes as "the keystone of reform" that will shape French social security for the next half century. The existing healthcare arrangements, a complex and overlapping system of 19 different health plans, will be "drastically simplified" to create a single system, the Prime Minister said. Under the new system, all foreigners will be expected to pay for hospital treatment in advance in all but emergency cases.

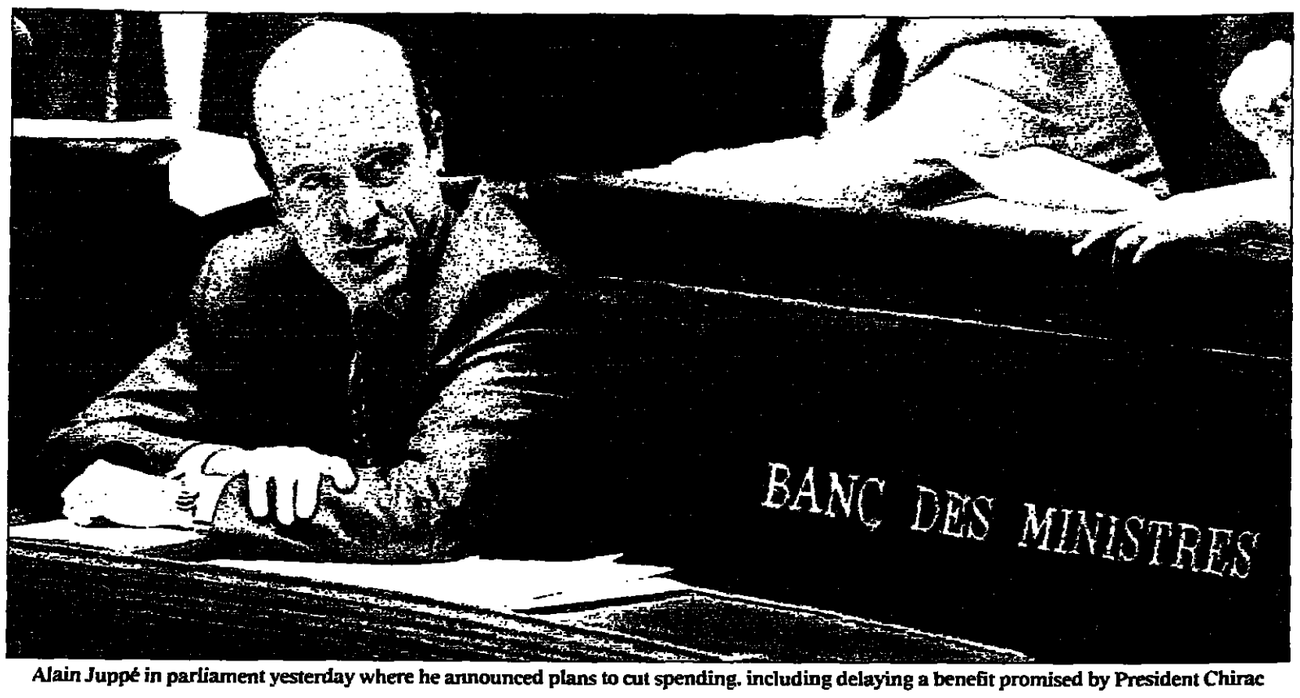
M Juppé has threatened to dissolve the Government if reforms are not approved and he has insisted that he will push through the most urgent changes by decree rather than wait for legislation.

A new welfare benefit for elderly invalids, due to come into force next January and one of President Chirac's campaign pledges, will be postponed, M Juppé said, while generous family allowances will be taxed for the first time from 1997.

As a result of the reforms, the Prime Minister predicted, the annual social security deficit, more than 60 billion francs this year, would be slashed to 17 billion francs next year and produce a surplus by 1997. M Juppé also outlined a new system of keeping records to limit the number of times a patient can visit a doctor. Currently, most French people can see as many doctors as they want, as often as they wish.

Under the new plan, before qualifying for a full state pension, civil servants would be required to work for 40 years, rather than 37½ years, to bring them into line with the private sector — a measure that will further enrage the government employees, already angered by a planned pay freeze.

Yesterday's call for a vote of confidence and the declaration that crucial changes would be pushed through by government decree show how far M Juppé has come from promises to reform welfare through consensus. Some unions have called for a one-day strike on November 28 in opposition to welfare reform.



Alain Juppé in parliament yesterday where he announced plans to cut spending, including delaying a benefit promised by President Chirac

Artist delivers a nuclear warning

Vienna: Hermann Nitsch, an Austrian artist, slung 50 gallons of pigs' blood at a giant canvas outside the French Embassy here to protest at the country's nuclear tests. Nitsch, 57, finished by tipping leftover blood onto the pavement along with a tub of dead fish. (AFP)

Paris team sweat it out in Bali

Paris: On the day that Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, announced plans to overhaul France's welfare system, 120 French social security administrators were enjoying an all-expenses-paid conference on the Indonesian island of Bali (Ben Macintyre writes).

Newspapers and politicians have objected to the size of the contingent, citing this as further proof of extravagance in the French welfare system.

About 100 countries are represented at the annual International Association for Social Security meeting, but the French delegation is by far the largest. Germany sent 25 delegates, and America seven. Britain has just two.

The cost of the trip has been estimated at 11,235 francs (£1,500) per person. About 20 delegates took spouses along at their own expense, while others arrived days early.

"We're working like dogs," Michael Gautrey, an organiser, said. Many were unconvinced. While freezing rain fell on Paris, the temperature in Bali was 30C (86F).

Spaniard tipped as head of Nato

BY GEORGE BROCK, EUROPEAN EDITOR

CONFUSION persisted last night over the search for a new Nato Secretary-General amid speculation that Javier Solana, the Spanish Foreign Minister, might run for the job.

Señor Solana, a cerebral politician educated in Britain and America, would be the Western alliance's first Spanish head. Madrid has not put him forward as an official candidate, but Felipe González, the Prime Minister, said yesterday he would be "magnificent". Señor Solana is a likely successor to Señor González as leader of the Socialist Party and may prefer to stay in politics. But his political future might be confined as the Socialists seem certain to lose next year's election.

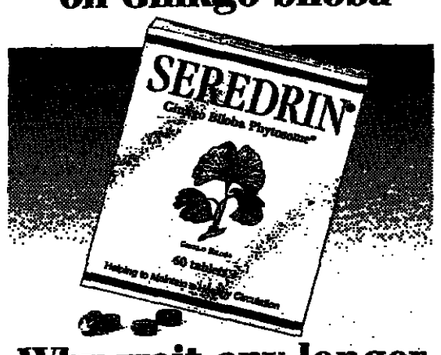
A British official said Señor Solana had "all the necessary qualities" for the Nato post and that his transatlantic interests would be an asset. Other Nato diplomats said that Spain's semi-detached position in the alliance's integrated military command would not be an obstacle.

The attitude of Washington, which has already vetoed a Dutch candidate, Ruud Lubbers, backed by Britain, Germany and France, will be pivotal if Señor Solana is willing to be considered. Robert Hunter, the US Ambassador to Nato, yesterday paid tribute to his qualities but emphasised that America had no official view on a man who was not a declared candidate.

The only declared runner remains Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, Denmark's former Foreign Minister, but he appears vulnerable to a French veto.

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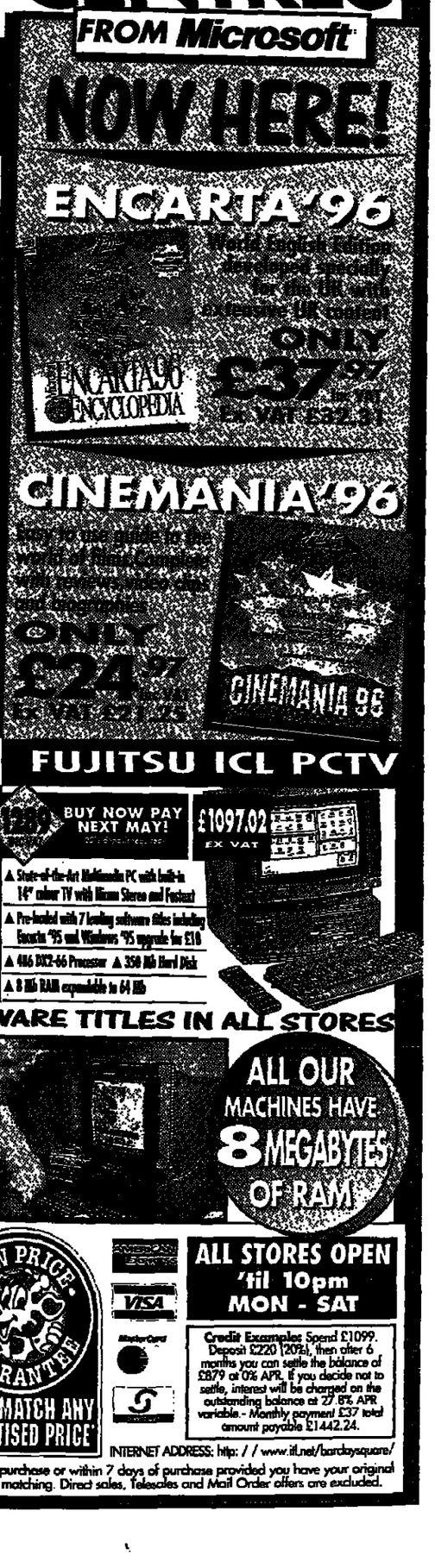
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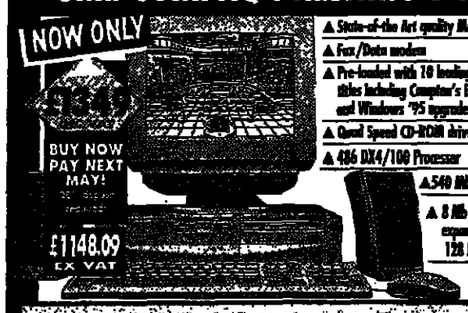
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Reading between the ageing lines ☐ Why anaemia always deserves investigation ☐ A breakthrough for glaucoma sufferers

Facing up to face creams



THE TIME when lines were thought to add interest, charm and a bit of character to the face has long since passed. The aim now is to have a cherubic complexion, as line-free as possible and redolent of youthful innocence.

Various creams and lotions can be applied to the complexion so that the skin's outer horny layers are shed, the fresher deeper layers are exposed, and the lines disappear, making the patient look younger. Most of the simple compounds contain salicylic acid and/or alpha hydroxy acid. Dermatologists are divided as to the wisdom of using them.

Dr Malcolm Rustin, a consultant dermatologist at the Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead, and an expert on dermatitis, says: "These creams cause a straightforward peel. There is an irritant effect which in some cases may lead on to an irritant dermatitis. Patients should be told of this possibility and also warned that the long-term effect of constantly removing the outer layer of the skin, particularly in relation to sun exposure, is unknown."



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

More sophisticated creams and gels contain vitamin A derivatives. These are much more complex in their action and are useful in dealing with acneform skin. They are claimed to increase the blood flow to the skin, improve the collagen content and lead to the development of a finer, thicker skin with fewer lines; but these too can cause an irritant dermatitis.

Professor Nicholas Lowe, an expert on cosmetic dermatology, of the Cranley Clinic in London, said: "Patients always need careful selection for any anti-ageing cream. They are not indicated for use in any person with a history of eczema or a sensitive skin. The vitamin A derivative creams have a more profound influence on deeper layers of the skin and their action is more complex than to cause a simple peel. Whatever the cream chosen, daily sunscreens should be used in conjunction with them."

The vitamin A derivative isotretinoin is supposedly less likely to cause irritation than tretinoin, but the difference may be marginal.

Doctors and patients have to be on the alert for severe skin irritation, and even when using simpler compounds it is as well to alternate their use with skin moisturisers.

Pale rider



FORTY years ago no medical consultation was complete without the patient being asked to put out his tongue, and most doctors would also ask to look at the fingernails, the palms of the hands and would pull down the lower eyelid so as to judge the colour of the conjunctiva. These tests are all designed to detect anaemia but, in fact, are of doubtful accuracy.

Now that first clinical impressions can be cross-checked against scientific data from the laboratory it is shaming how often it transpires that the pallid patient has a normal blood count, and the apparently ruddy-faced countryman is anaemic.

The condition may be caused by a deficiency of folic acid or vitamin B12, damage or failure of the bone marrow, or may be associated with renal disease and other chronic conditions ranging from rheumatoid arthritis to malignancies.

The largest single group of anaemias are those linked to iron deficiency, and these are the ones most likely to cause a diagnostic problem in the surgery.

In spite of the laboratory's role, the old clinical signs of anaemia are still of interest: the conjunctiva is often pale, and there is glossitis, inflammation of the tongue, which appears pallid and sore; the corners of the mouth are also often cracked; the fingernails show koilonychia, a condition in which the nail is flattened, even spoon-shaped, and ridged and cracked; the skin of the hand is flaky and the palms are pale.

Patients who are anaemic complain that they are listless and tire easily, they may be breathless and, if the anaemia is gross, their ankles swell. Swallowing can become difficult.

Iron-deficiency anaemia can be due to a protein-deprived diet or an underlying disease. Tests may reveal nothing more sinister than piles or chronic diverticulosis, a hiatus hernia, chronic gastritis or inflammation of the gullet, but they can show gastric or duodenal ulcers or even a hidden malignancy.

One thing is certain about iron-deficiency anaemia: it deserves investigation before it is blindly treated with iron tablets.

Visionary



THE treatment of glaucoma — loss of vision associated with a rise in pressure in the eye — has been revolutionised by the introduction of eye drops containing betablockers.

Timolol, the betablocker most often used, can occasionally have side-effects, including severe asthma in patients who have a history of allergies. Even when the patient has no history of asthma, and any spasm in the bronchial tubes is not so severe after using betablockers as to be conscious of wheezing, detailed tests show that about 15 per cent of lung function is lost in a quarter of all patients. Other patients using non-cardioselective betablocker drops have noticed a poor peripheral circulation, including cold hands and feet. If they suffer from heart failure, the situation may be made worse.

Cardioselective betablocker drops, such as betaxolol, are safer, but care is still advised.

Carbonic anhydrase inhibitors, which reduce the amount of fluid produced in the eye, have been a possible answer for glaucoma for some time, but only recently has one, dorzolamide (Trusopt), which is both potent and apparently free of side-effects, been introduced.

Trusopt can be used in conjunction with betablocker drops, or instead of them if they cannot be used because of the risk of serious side-effects in those patients with allergies or heart failure.

Dr James Le Fanu talks to a fellow GP about the paralysis which suddenly afflicted him

'I will never forget the day I walked again'

It may not be a lot of fun lying flat on your back in hospital unable to move a muscle below the neck, but as 40-year-old Laurence Knott reflected soon after his admission to the Royal Free Hospital in London, things could be a lot worse. Certainly he found it a nuisance that he was unable to feed himself, and humiliating to require nursing assistance for basic physical needs, but at least his diagnosis, Guillain-Barré Syndrome, is one of the few catastrophic neurological illnesses that tend, eventually, to get better of their own accord.

His phlegmatic reasoning was no doubt helped by the fact that he is a family doctor in Enfield, north London. The first sign something might be wrong came when visiting a patient after morning surgery. "By the time I got to her room, I was more breathless than she was," he recalls. "We made a sorry picture, she wheezing on one side of the bed, me gasping on the other." As soon as he got home he made straight for his medical textbooks. "There seemed to be only one condition that fitted my symptoms of tingling in the hands and feet, breathlessness and difficulty in walking." Dr Knott rang the hospital and told the physician on duty that he had developed Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS).

Guillain and Barré were two French physicians who in 1916 together described this syndrome of progressive ascending paralysis for the first time. The underlying problem is an acute inflammation of the motor and sensory nerves, which can be induced by a variety of causes including viral and bacterial illnesses. The commonest of these is campylobacter infection, which can be contracted by eating undercooked chicken or by drinking milk from bottles that magpies or jackdaws have pecked at. Since the eradication of polio, Guillain-Barré Syndrome has become the most feared cause of paralysis in the Western world.



Dr Knott diagnosed his own illness

The paralysis starts in the hands and feet and then moves up slowly towards the neck. The main life-threatening complication is asphyxiation from paralysis of the respiratory muscles of the rib cage. About a quarter of patients need mechanical ventilation, sometimes for a month or longer, until the power to breathe unaided returns. Most cases recover spontaneously over a period of two to three months but recovery may be speeded by a process called plasma exchange where the blood plasma is removed from the body and filtered to remove the antibodies that are attacking the nerves.

Alternatively, the results of a recent international trial co-ordinated by Professor Richard Hughes of Guy's Hospital, London, have shown that administering human immunoglobulin intravenously may be equally effective.

In Dr Knott's case it was decided to proceed with plasma exchange, but the first attempt almost killed him. "As the needle plunged into my chest, I suddenly felt as if everything was getting further away," he remembers. "Someone said 'his blood pressure has gone down to zero'. Someone else shouted 'call the resuscitation team'."

Dr Knott survived and after a short stay in the intensive care unit he returned to the general ward. But after his brush with death, his phlegmatic optimism had evaporated. "For the short period I thought I was going to die, I consoled myself with the thought that I'd had my life, and that it had not been too bad," he says. "But when the crisis was over, I was overwhelmed by despair at the prospect of my continued dependency. I was assailed with morbid thoughts that perhaps I would be one of the unlucky few that did not recover, that perhaps I would be spending the rest of my life in a wheelchair. If I had had the strength or opportunity I would willingly have thrown myself under a bus."

After six weeks, right on cue, came the first signs of recovery. "It happened in the physiotherapy department when in response to the command 'move your legs', I looked down and amazingly saw the first flicker of movement in my feet." Dr Knott was transferred back to his local hospital, Chace Farm in Enfield. "I graduated from the wheelchair to walking with sticks and to this day I will never forget when I was able to get around on my own two feet again."

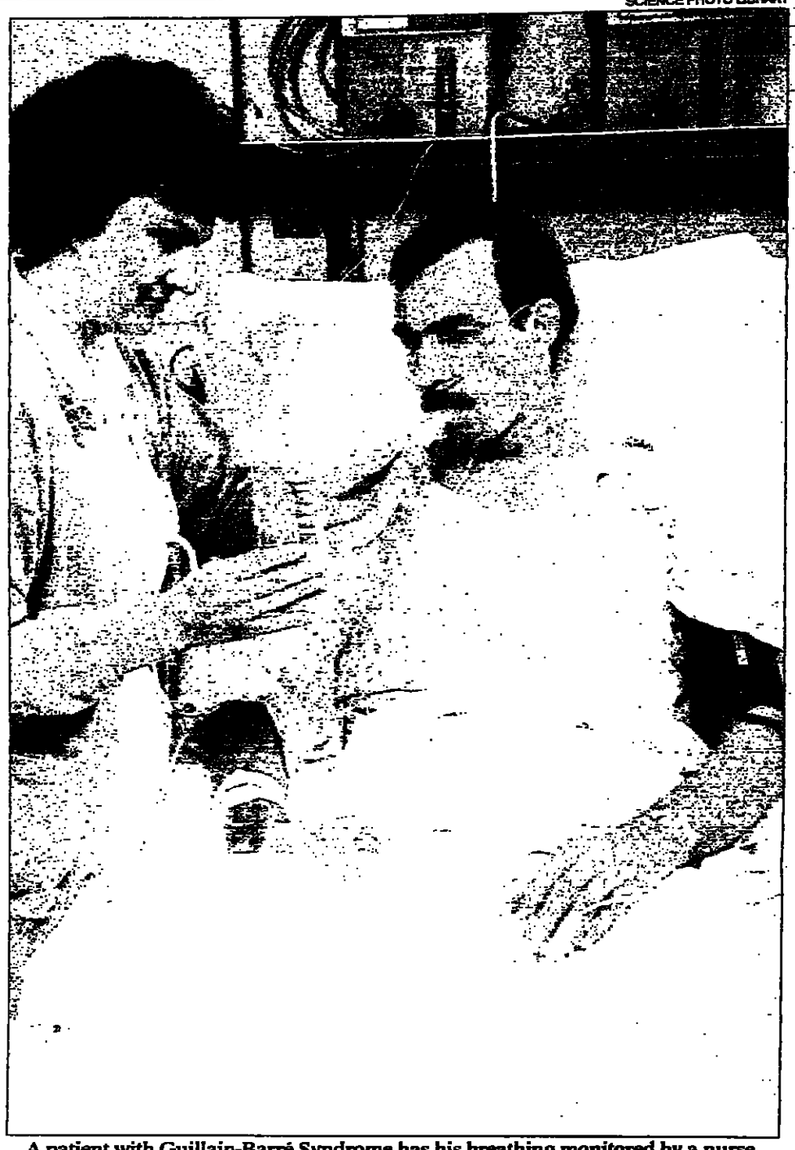
Dr Knott's prolonged convalescence at Chace Farm had another quite unexpected bonus in restoring his sense of medical vocation. He had a steady stream of visitors, patients from his practice who went out of their way to drop in to see him before going on to their outpatient appointments elsewhere in the hospital. "I realised then I was not just a technician sitting behind a desk signing prescriptions. I felt appreciated, almost loved. It was very moving."

Though the majority of those with GBS do, like Dr Knott, eventually make a full recovery, some 10 per cent are disabled, and for the unlucky 2 to 5 per cent the illness proves fatal. Professor Hughes emphasises that diagnosis must be made early and that it is highly desirable to be seen at a specialist centre, where the doctors are dealing with many cases. "The commonest misdiagnosis," he says, "is hysteria."

A successful outcome also depends on the quality of nursing and rehabilitation facilities. As Dr Jeremy Rees of Guy's Hospital says: "Attention to detail and the mundane aspects of caring for a paralysed patient remain at the forefront of medical care." But above all Dr Rees emphasises the need "to maintain morale by continued reassurance that recovery is likely".

For Dr Knott there was another important lesson from his illness. "It renewed my respect for everyone with a chronic disease and their intellectual fortitude in facing each day with equanimity, despite the knowledge that they would never get any better."

● *Guillain-Barré Support Group, c/o Lincolnshire County Council, Eastgate, Sleaford, Lincs NG34 7EB. Tel: 01529 304615.*



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A patient with Guillain-Barré Syndrome has his breathing monitored by a nurse. Paralysis of the respiratory muscles can lead to life-threatening asphyxiation and a quarter of patients will need mechanical ventilation sometimes for several months

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Glenys Kinnock tells **Valerie Grove** about her new slimline life in Brussels

In the shadow of Cherie

TONY WHITE



Glenys Kinnock notes Cherie Blair's intention to pursue her own career from No 10: "There's a generation difference between us in that way"

When Glenys Kinnock delivered her recent Fawcett Library Lecture, nobody dreamt of introducing her as "the wife of the former Labour leader". In this centre of feminist history a woman speaks in her own right, and Brussels has given Mrs Kinnock, MEP, a status of her own. (Yesterday it was Mrs Kinnock's voice we heard exhorting the EU to introduce sanctions against Nigeria.) Brussels has also given her a new figure. Though already trim she has lost an amazing two stone, just by pounding the corridors of the European Parliament building.

Hers sounds to me an unrestful life of endless flight, often on Manx Air propellered planes, between Brussels and Cardiff. At Heathrow that day, she had spent ten minutes trying to remember where she'd left her Ford Granada. Every fourth week she treks to Strasbourg, "a pain in the neck, with trunkloads of papers and researchers but without your computer — an inefficient, ridiculous and unnecessary way of working".

Dame Millicent Fawcett, suffragist pioneer and wife of a Radical MP, would have been fascinated to hear Mrs Kinnock examining how far the March of the Women has gone. Twenty-five per cent of MEPs are women, making Brussels a far more congenial Parliament than Westminster ("no yah-booing at each other across the floor", says Mrs K) and in the women's group the British Members, Labour and Tory, work together, often in agreement and equally critical of developments in Britain.

But even Brussels compares unfavourably with Denmark. Mrs Kinnock's son Stephen, a busy Eurocrat, is about to marry a Dane who works in the Danish Parliament whose 50:50 equal sexual representation, Glenys points out, is the envy of the world. Even South Africa has a 25 per cent female Parliament; its woman Speaker told Glenys recently: "We would rather emulate the Nordic nations than the US or the UK. At 25 per cent we are only halfway there."

Glenys Kinnock never aspired to Parliament herself while leader's wife, but she was ahead of her time. Her fierce wifely devotion was beyond question (*Stand By Your Man* was one of her Desert Island Discs), as was the political dedication nurtured by her father, a railwayman and union activist. She always looked terrific, she was at ease with people: no other party leader's spouse could boast her experience of helping children with learning difficulties in Neasden. But she always seemed to be up against the British antipathy to female spouses with attitude. Because she was not a mouse she was assumed to be the bossyboots and she was constantly imagined to be the power behind the throne, rather than just an intelligent partner. But that was before the arrival of Hillary — and Cherie.

Now she observes her successor planning to carry on with her own work from No 10 — with an assurance that Glenys would never have been permitted. "Oh, absolutely. There is a complete generation difference between us in that way. I'm sure Cherie will continue to practise, and combine the two. And the children will go to school from there."

There would certainly have been no embarrassment over the Kinnock children's schooling: it would have been Pimlico Comprehensive for them. Mrs Kinnock thinks the party has successfully weathered the storm over the Blairs' school decision, but she knows it was wounding, and will be a key election issue. She also points out that the Blunkett initiative on homework could operate realistically only if schools make supervised after-school provision for children in disadvantaged homes. As for "a laptop for every child", Mrs Kinnock, a passionate authority on teaching children to read, is still keener on books: she always said that without mastery of language no child can move forward to technological skills.

"In the kind of literacy I want to see, there is no substitute for losing yourself in a book," she says (currently lost, herself, in the new Vera Brittain biography). Stephen, Cambridge graduate, is reading Dostoevsky; Rachel, media studies graduate, has asked her mother for a box of books for her birthday: "So I'm going to have a lovely afternoon in a bookshop, starting with Doris Lessing's *The Golden Notebook*."

She looked back on the 20 years of the Sex Discrimination Act, which arrived with Rachel's birth. "It was a great joy to have a daughter, with whom I could share my hopes, my values, my aspirations, my tights, my newly dry-cleaned silk shirts..." Before that, there was overt discrimination, sexist advertising, no statutory maternity leave. Now Rachel starts work as a production assistant and her mother is struck by her "confidence and audacity".

But she also sees, in her South Wales constituency, the macho culture of the Valleys being turned on its head, with women now half the workforce while unemployed former miners trail buggies round the supermarket.

How to get more women interested in politics? Not even the Labour Party's positive discrimination can overcome the fact that no man ever complains about the difficulty of combining a career with fatherhood. She is very aware of how many women Labour MPs are childless.

"Women are accused of being apathetic and apolitical, but they may be just knackered by family, home and job." She sees women active in local initiatives — women's refuges, community projects on hellish estates. "But women, and young people like Rachel, just don't want to come to branch meetings to be trapped in a room for hours arguing about wheelie bins. That's such a switch-off. I get very frustrated by it myself. We ought to be involving them with campaigns, something that gets them out on the street, identifying what people's concerns are."

> Because she was no mouse she was seen as the bossyboots

Her husband was that day in Finland. "He loves his portfolio. Having always been criticised as someone who didn't pay attention to detail, he enjoys the minutiae of shipping, aeroplanes, roads, the trans-Europe network." Mrs Kinnock still travels the Third World: she was in Sudan this summer with the Tory Lord Plumb, deciding that the EU should continue to refuse aid or trade preferences to that tyrannical regime.

She had been deeply moved by Ken Loach's film *Land and Freedom*. Her son, she said, doubted that he could ever feel that revolutionary "our day will come" idealism: "I'm not sure it's appropriate for his generation, which it was for my parents in the 1930s and still was, in a way, for ours. We have to work with things as they are now."

It is the Blairs who work with things as they are now. Mrs Kinnock vividly remembers that feeling before the last election, of being so close to victory. "And we could have made it. There was no reason to suppose, at this stage before the election, that we couldn't have won," she says. "The party's very aware that the last thing we can afford to be is complacent. I'm sure we will win, and by a big majority, but I know Tony is not by any means taking it for granted."

To be or not to be sued, that is the question

Quentin Letts reports from New York on the legal slings and arrows over the origins of *Hamlet*

Hollywood attorneys reckon they have seen most foibles of the creative world, but when Mike Doyen sat down this summer to examine a new case he did a double-take worthy of Oliver Hardy. This was showbusiness, all right, but surely on the mouldy side. It concerned that 1601 box-office hit, *Hamlet*.

Doyen read late that night as he familiarised himself with the bizarre paperwork of *Sohmer v McGrail*. It was a case of two former friends going to law over Shakespearean literary criticism. A Hollywood mogul was suing a young scholar over the provenance of a questionable theory about the meaning of *Hamlet*.

Steve Sohmer is a big hitter in Tinseltown. He used to be head of Columbia Pictures and now runs an independent production company which makes films for television and the big screen. He has a PhD from Oxford and is a voracious Shakespearean. When he wants to feel closer to the Bard he spends time at his large Cotswolds house near Stratford-upon-Avon.

His legal opponent, Mary Ann McGrail, is a 37-year-old scholar from Boston University who used to work with Mother Teresa in India. Six years ago, while teaching at Boston, Miss McGrail met and became friends with Mr Sohmer, a mature student.

Mr Sohmer relishes literary debate but found few soulmates among his Bel Air neighbours. He therefore invited Miss McGrail to fly out to Hollywood at his expense and to talk Shakespeare with him for two hours a morning (for $100 an hour, plus expenses). It was a dream deal. He got his highbrow infusion before heading off to his "day job" at the studios. She got a Californian suntan for four summers and the minor frisson of poolside parties with the Hollywood set. She also took the chance to work at the Huntington Library on the elusive academic book which might help her to attain tenure at Boston.

On the fifth summer, alas, Bel Air turned into a West Coast Elsinore. The unlikely scholastic duo became interested in apparent references in *Hamlet* to Martin Luther, the 16th-century father of the Reformation. They were not the first to detect possible textual puns on Luther's *Diet of Worms* ("A certain convocation of politic worms are e'en at him," broods Hamlet after slaying Polonius). Other critics have latched on to the play's repeated mentions of Wittenberg, where Luther held sway. However, Mr Sohmer reckoned he was breaking new ground with a theory that the action of *Hamlet* matches the calendar for 1517, the year Luther published his theses. Miss McGrail, meanwhile, thought she was on to something new by linking Shakespeare's plot to John Foxe's 16th-century martyrology *Actes and Monuments* and a biography of Luther by his friend, Philipp Melanchthon.

Here things became messy. Mr Sohmer says he introduced Miss McGrail to Foxe and Melanchthon. She says it was vice versa. When she proposed writing a book about her/their theory, he sent for the lawyers.

Mr Sohmer long ago learnt the Hollywood way of dealing with disputes. Once the attorneys were teed up he started the publicity campaign. Within hours of the disagreement he issued a press release in which he claimed to have discovered a "new, unrecognised source for *Hamlet*". He placed an article on *Hamlet* on the Internet and had his lawyers forbid Miss McGrail to discuss the play in public. In legal papers he claimed that the Luther theories were the intellectual property of Steve Sohmer Inc, his production company.



Hamlet: there's the rub

The McGrail camp moved more slowly, but was not inactive. One of her friends placed a well-aimed call to *The New Yorker* magazine, which has just published an article on the dispute.

The language became unscholarly, tears were shed, and there were hideous scenes at lawyers' offices. Mr Sohmer quoted the old saying that "a student who does not surpass his master fails his master" and claimed: "I was the one who was really conducting the seminar on *Hamlet*." *The New Yorker* judges that "in a sense [Sohmer] acted as if McGrail were a contract writer at his own backyard version of Columbia Pictures", but also carries his explanation that the fight is "a matter of principle".

After weeks of legal wrangling the dispute may now be reaching its epilogue. An agreement has been drafted which will allow both parties to publish their theories independently. Miss McGrail's lawyer, Mike Doyen, worked for nothing, but she has exhausted her life savings. Now, ironically, she may try to recoup her losses by selling the story of her experience to Hollywood.

Mr Doyen, having waded through countless 16th-century tracts and obscure volumes of literary criticism, can barely disguise his irritation when he says that this case "was very silly". He pleads: "Please do not take it as representative of American litigation."

Miss McGrail admitted that "what happened is ridiculous, but at least I have been vindicated", while Mr Sohmer is said to be assembling a new team of kindred Shakespeareans to pick over the bones of the Bard.

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Let's hear what Diana has to say

The Princess of Wales has a right to tell her side of the story, says **Libby Purves**

"My Government," read the Queen without a flicker of visible stress, "will introduce legislation to reform the law governing divorce." You would not want to play poker against Her Majesty, who gave no clue at all of whatever she was thinking privately of the latest bad card dealt to her: the news that her daughter-in-law is taking over Monday's *Panorama* on BBC1 to "cover every stage of her life as the Princess of Wales".

Buckingham Palace press office, however, could not be trusted to win at pat-a-cake. They primly said: "The Queen does not watch *Panorama* — full stop. In any case, the Queen and Prince Philip will be at the Royal Variety Performance that night." The intention was, no doubt, to sound lofty, but someone should have taken these media professionals aside and explained, very gently and with diagrams, that *Panorama* is generally considered a serious programme. The sort, in fact, which a responsible monarch might well watch, even on the video perhaps, when one got home from the delights of the Royal Variety Performance.

The reason to quote this fatuity is that this one arrogant statement from the Palace sums up the reasons why the Princess is doing the right thing. Someone has to cut through the thickets of pomposity, snobbery and bullying which surround our Queen. Someone must break the rule that they can only communicate with the outer world through coded photocalls and secret messages through "friends". The Prince of Wales did it with Jonathan Dimbleby, and now it is his wife's turn. She has things to say, and a right to say them: the Prince, with his ever-more apparent agenda of slowly introducing Camilla Parker Bowles into his public circle and pretending his wife does not exist, need not be left unchallenged.

> Someone has to cut through the thickets of snobbery

It is to the Princess's credit that she has chosen for her interview a tough sober programme, and a young unknown news reporter who is unlikely to gush. Martin Bashir, after all, has a career to build and presumably does not want to dwindle into a royal-watcher; he is not likely to fall into the traps of obsequiousness or complicity. The Princess of Wales's strategy indicates that she wants to be taken as a serious woman.

Of course, it may fail. You would not guess it from yesterday's papers, but hardly anyone knows what Diana actually says. For all we know, it might be: "Frankly, I was mad as a brush for years. Charles did well to put up with me as long as he did and I wish him luck with Camilla. God Save the Queen." Or she might be flirtatiously self-exonerating and blame everyone but herself. Or she might be more bitter than is decent. We shall have to see.

But I, for one, am glad that we will see. The Dimbleby-Wales interview came, above all, as a relief. We saw the man clearly at last, not concealed behind ghastly "friends" and even ghastlier "royal-watchers". We saw an anxious, tense, kind, naively romantic, potentially boring but well-meaning man, who is aware of the hash he made of his private life but still wants to serve. We looked at him and recognised him as real, and felt the warmer towards him.

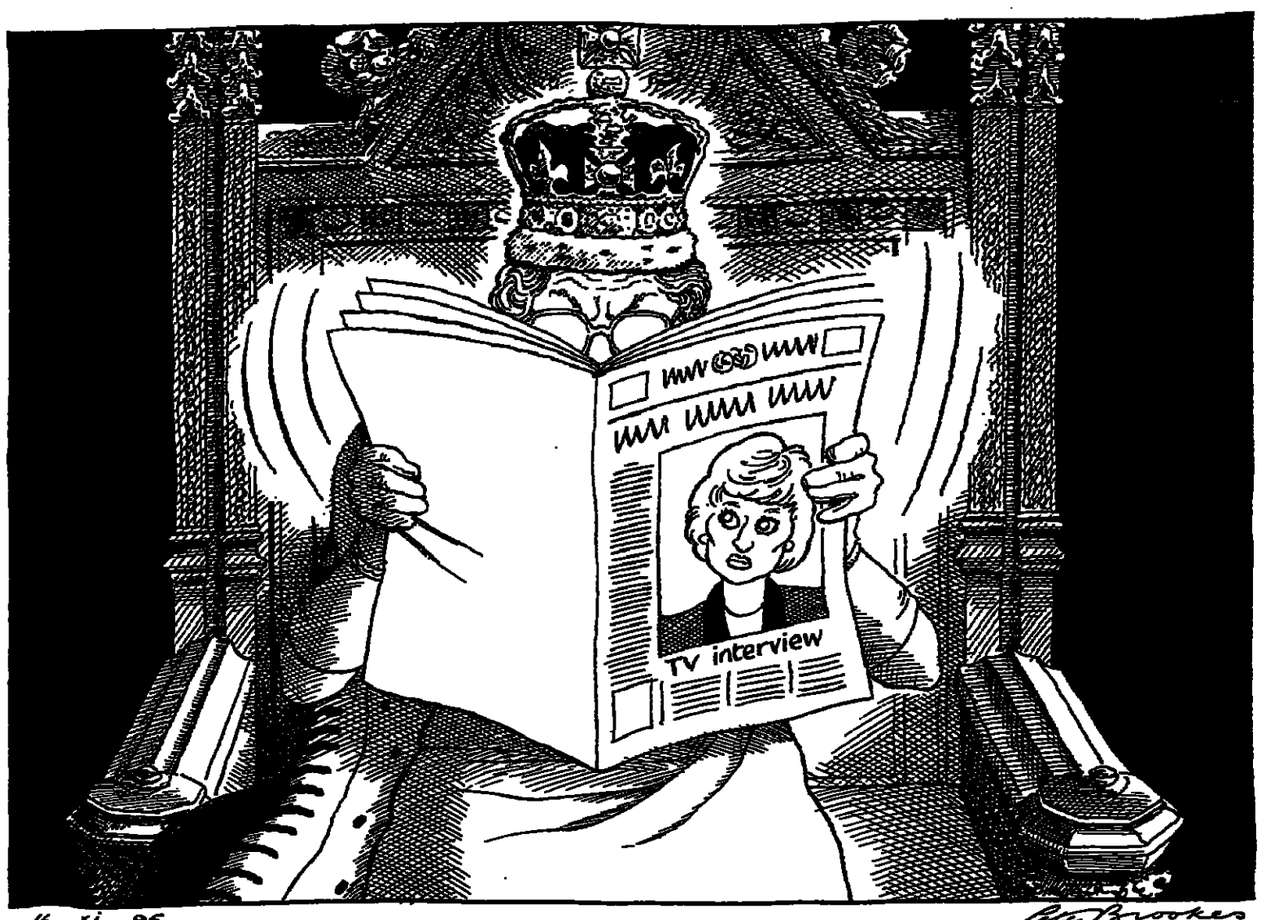
Why should not his estranged wife do it too? She cannot forever remain a mass of contradictory legends, legends which reveal more about popular neuroses concerning women than they do about her. She has been cast in turn as simple girl betrayed, a starveling captive, saintly mother, manipulative bitch and, most recently, marriage-wrecking siren. Weaving these tales has advanced the careers of countless journalists, authors. Meanwhile, we have heard *nothing* directly from her since the day when, aged 19, she murmured (inaccurately, as it turned out): "With Prince Charles by my side, I can't go wrong." Why not let her speak?

Criticisms of this interview have been put with passion (jealous passion, mainly). One faction, led by Lord Deedes on Radio 4's *Today*, claims that the BBC "took advantage of a lonely and unhappy woman". Chivalrous, but patronising. This is a woman in her mid-thirties, not the little-girl-lost of male fantasies. Some say that the BBC should have told the Palace against her will; but why? The Palace has no cosy relationship with the BBC, not any longer.

The more serious allegation is that in keeping it quiet the Princess was disloyal to the Queen. But to return to where I began: the Palace establishment has never played fair with the younger members of the Royal Family, and it richly deserves to be bypassed. It is no secret that both Diana and the Duchess of York, in their early married years, were treated by the old-school courtiers of Buckingham Palace with a patronising contempt that verged on callousness. One, at least, of their marriages might have been saved were it not for the lack of human understanding the young women met; particularly when they were unsupported by the presence of their husbands.

Why should the Princess of Wales have risked their contumely, and the dirty tricks they would have played to keep her off the air?

If she wants a public life, if she wants to be our ambassadress to the world, it will do no harm to see her talk frankly about her difficult royal career, and to see what perspective she has managed to put on it. It could stimulate a sensible discussion as to how we can best use her talents. It is an entirely reasonable thing to do. I hope she does it well.



THE QUEEN SPEECHLESS

Diamonds aren't for ever

The language is a richer repository of wealth than a store of jewels

William Rees-Mogg

As a child I was much inebriated with strange and romantic words, which I collected like a magpie, and wrote down in my commonplace book. I looked through dictionaries to unearth them, and hoped to find a use for some of the rarer ones. Until now, in a lifetime of journalism, I have never found a use for the word "uliginose", which means "growing in muddy places", though, now I come to think of it, there has been no shortage of uliginose politicians in the past 30 years.

It was the poets, particularly those who shared the taste for gem-like words, who fed my collector's passion, my juvenile logo-mania. Coleridge, I suppose, came first: "In Xanadu did Kubla Khan a stately pleasure-dome decree". Milton and Keats were not far behind, though "lucent syrups, tinct with cinnamon" was too saccharine even for my childish ear. I could not resist Christopher Marlowe: "Is it not passing brave to be a King, and ride in triumph through Persepolis?"

Somewhere in Boswell's *Life of Johnson* there is an anecdote of a discussion in front of a Spanish literary man, who had no English. He was asked to listen to the conversation of a group of English friends until he heard a word which struck him as particularly beautiful. He stopped the company at the word "cellar-door", and indeed if one were to write it as "Selador", it would sound like the secret name for a prince of Arabia. Words have a beauty or an ugliness which is independent to their meaning. Who cannot hear that "alopecia" is beautiful, and "brunch" is ugly, without reference to their sense? Alopecia is one of the most beautiful words in the English language, though it derives from the Latin for fox-mange.

A recent event has produced a larger number of these collectible words than I can remember outside poetry. That is appropriate, because it was the sale by Sotheby's in Geneva of the Aga Khan jewels. The true logomaniac feeling for words has much in common with the collector's feeling for gem stones, though one cannot measure the beauty of words in carats or sell them in Swiss francs.

"Princess Salima, the Begum Aga Khan" — what name could be better than that? It is like the tuning-up notes when a nightingale starts to sing. It even has the Shakespearean device of including low humour to accentuate beauty by a vulgar contrast. "Begum" is a comic word, much loved by the Lancashire comedians in my youth, when there still were Lancashire comedians. The Princess Salima seems to have gone through her life collecting romantic names, as well as diamonds. She is, of course, one of the few genuine beauties of my period, a match for Sarah Siddons and more than a match for Lily Langtry.

The Princess was born Sarah Croker-Poole, which makes her sound like a good *Country Life* girl, not indeed a Cavendish, from a landed rather than an aristocratic family. Her father, according to Godfrey Barker in *The Daily Telegraph*, was a colonel in "the Duke of Connaught's Lancers in the Indian cavalry". What a superb visual image that gives. One can see the colonel wheeling at the head of his troop, the lances above the horses' ears, the colours moving in the breeze, the stern Pathan faces, the horses shifting as they turn, the hot Indian sun, the watching crowds, the Viceroy taking the salute in the state barouche. One can hear the band playing the Radetski March, that light cavalry march which was played in Westminster Abbey as Princess Anne and Mark Phillips walked down the aisle. Beyond that, one can see the men and horses charging, horses falling, men dying, scarlet blood on scarlet coats, cannons belching smoke and shot from the head of the defile. "The Duke of Connaught's Lancers" is the history of an empire in a single phrase.

Before she acquired the "Begum Blue" of 13.78 carats, which sold to Graff of Bond Street for £5.1 million — "a mere trifle for such a stone", as the 18th-century Mr Christie would have said — Miss Croker-Poole was first married to Lord James Crichton-Stuart. That is another romantic name. I can never remember who "the Admirable Crichton" was but such a character exists somewhere in English literature. Put James and Stuart together and you have the most entertaining and imprudent of all the British dynasties. "James, Charles, Charles, James", as we used to remind ourselves at school, made a real hash of ruling Britain, but Charles II was surely the best company of all the British monarchs.

The Princess Salima was herself a famous model of the 1960s, but she was never a Sixties person. She was photographed by Cecil Beaton and appeared in *Vogue*; she did not belong either to the Beatles or the brutalists of the time. Her career was classical, like that of Barbara Goalen in the 1950s, rather than post-modernist, like that of Twiggy. One cannot imagine Twiggy marrying the Aga Khan, or, for that matter, the Aga Khan marrying Twiggy.

The jewellers have their own titles as well, the brand names of the empyrean, wherever that may be. "Van Cleef and Arpels" is a superbly rich-sounding name, like Ritz or Rockefeller. It may be awkward to fit into a rhyme scheme, or Cole Porter might have used it in the place of "Cartier". I think of them as Victorian partners in a secluded mahogany office, with little drawers for diamonds, sorted by colour and carat, for rubies, sapphires and so on. Van Cleef is a stolid Dutchman, with a beard like W.G. Grace and a heavy gold watch-chain. Arpels is a lively Frenchman, a volatile flatterer from the court of Napoleon III, a ladies' man but, like Benjamin Disraeli, with a hint of the feminine in his personality. He smells faintly of patchouli.

Included in the Begum Aga Khan's collection was "a shimmering beaded fringe yellow diamond choker by Boucheron, sold for £407,000". Every word is poetry — "shimmering", it is true, is a word used only by minor poets; in serious literature it is only used ironically by P.G. Wodehouse. "Beaded fringe yellow diamond choker by Boucheron" is a fine rising crescendo. It turns on the word "choker". Who wears a choker nowadays? But they did in the years before the First World War, when duchesses dined by candelight and were painted by Sargent, a promising young American artist from Boston.

There is even a new character in the story, or at least one I had never heard of before. Godfrey Barker states that "a fringed necklace spray by Van Cleef and Arpels of hundreds of deep Burmese rubies set in diamond clusters sold for £202,300 to Sheikh Fitaihi, the world's number one diamond buyer". Not since the press discovered Sir Basil Zaharoff, the world's number one armaments dealer, has there been so happy an invention. I look forward to pleasant years of reading in the gossip columns that "Sheikh Fitaihi, the world's number one diamond buyer" is staying at the Palace Hotel, Gstaad, The Mandarin, Hong Kong, Raffles Hotel, Singapore, The Carlyle, New York, or other similar coaching inns for travelling diamond buyers. He will make offers for the Hope diamond to whomever has it at present — is it the Smithsonian? — or for the Pitt diamond to the Louvre.

The Pitt diamond is the most expensive ever bought. The French monarchy purchased it in the 1720s from the Pitt family; the purchase money financed the political career of William Pitt, the Prime Minister won the Seven Years War, and took India and Canada away from France. The price that France paid for the Pitt diamond was no less than the largest empire the world has ever known. Pitt's great uncle, the governor, had stolen it from some unfortunate Indian, and smuggled it in an ingeniously concealed cavity in his shoe heel.

Compared with words, diamonds are but blunt instruments, but human beings find in them the same qualities of symbolism and concentration, the same sharpness with which to cut. The Begum Blue itself symbolises a certain idea of beauty, but also the idea of wealth and power. Yet it is a prime symbol for the innate folly of human nature: what sane person would rather have a bright blue pebble than a sum of money which would guarantee the wealth of a family for several lifetimes? Words of course are far more powerful; they reach into the innermost caves of the human mind. The love of diamonds we share with birds; the love of words we share with angels. Though Samuel Johnson thought the opposite, things are the sons of earth and words are the daughters of heaven.

A speech to test Labour

The election starts here, says **Peter Riddell**

At the opening of the Queen's Speech debate yesterday, Douglas Hurd warned the Commons, in his most headmasterly way, about the dangers of the politics of "phoney warfare" and "empty noise". John Major and Tony Blair then both justified his fears. They are like 18th-century generals manoeuvring for favourable ground ahead of the main battle. There is lots of noise, drumming and flag-waving. But these preliminary skirmishes do not really matter. Yesterday's speech was less about how Britain should be governed than about the Tory and Labour images. The Tories are seeking to claim the centre-right ground and to brand Labour as unreliable and left-wing. In return, Labour is repeating the refrain that the Tories have "lurched" to the right. Both claims are bogus.

The programme was like those at similar late stages of previous Parliaments, full of political symbolism but thin on substance. This is partly because most manifesto pledges have already been implemented in the first three years after an election. That is the time for big leaps forward. The last year or two of a Parliament is when a Government tries to avoid measures which will provoke resistance and divide its own party.

The aim is to highlight differences with the Opposition. In November 1986, for example, when Thatcherism was still at its height, the Queen's Speech contained Bills confiscating the assets of big-time criminals, abolishing domestic rates in Scotland, on compulsory competitive tendering of council services, consumer protection and strengthening the rights of private tenants. In November 1990, on the eve of the coup against Margaret Thatcher, the highlights of a short programme were described in *The Times* as "improving transport, tackling crime and boosting the family".

This all sounds familiar: yesterday's speech contained similar measures on crime, education and the like. There was even an echo of 1986. Then, the Queen's Speech included the original Bill authorising the building of the Channel Tunnel: now, it contains the return of the Bill allowing for the construction of the high-speed rail link from Folkestone to London. The programme is less radical than 1986, both because the Major Government is more managerial than crusading and because, with a single-figure Commons majority, it is more wary of risking a backbench revolt.

As Mr Major argued in the Commons, there is little in the detailed proposals to justify Labour's claims about a Tory "lurch" to the right. Half the Bills could easily have come from a Labour government, while with others, such as regulation of broadcasting and vouchers for nursery education, it is misleading to depict them in left-versus-right terms. Many on the free-market right have doubts about both these measures.

More significant than the substance is the tone. In a pre-election period, the Tories have always emphasised crime and immigration measures out of all proportion to their real significance in order to portray Labour as "soft". This is a sound electoral tactic. Labour is still vulnerable, particularly among some of its recent converts, on issues such as law and order and parental choice. Hence the Tories will seek to force Labour on to the defensive in Commons votes on the Bills on asylum-seekers, grant-maintained schools, nursery vouchers and disclosure of evidence in criminal trials.

Both main parties are depicting the other as extreme with themselves in the centre. Any party regarded as extreme does badly electorally. As MORI polls for *The Times* have shown, at the time of the 1983, 1987 and 1992 elections, many more people regarded Labour rather than the Tories as being extreme. But, now, more people view the Tories as extreme than Labour. Labour strategists have concluded from their market research that voters are hostile to a party with a right-wing image and hence they are trying to reinforce the Tories' current image, with assistance yesterday from Sir Julian Critchley's assault.

In this battle of images, the Queen's Speech is secondary to the Budget on November 28. Far more damage has been done to the Tories' standing by the tax increases and public spending squeezes of the past two years than by the main Bills of the period. Most Tory MPs are pinning their, increasingly slim, hopes for saving the next election on tax reductions rather than on yesterday's measures. Tory strategists believe this month's Budget needs to start such cuts in case an election has to be held next year, even though Mr Major does not want a contest before spring 1997, after a further tax-cutting Budget.

The aim will be to challenge Labour to oppose income tax cuts in the belief that it will be damned either way. If Labour votes against, it can be labelled a party of higher taxes, while if it supports tax cuts there will be no scope for it to promise higher public spending. The Budget will be the real political test, both for the Government and the Opposition.

Splashing out

YORKSHIRE WATER has resorted to desperate measures to appease angry customers in the drought-stricken county: It is paying for them to go on holiday.

Weekend breaks at the seaside are being offered to residents of Pellon, a suburb of Halifax, who have had to withstand convoys of tankers trundling past their doors day and night to a water-treatment works.

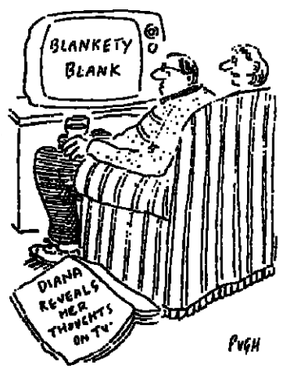
The disgruntled householders have been holidaying at Yorkshire Water's expense in such delightful resorts as Lytham St Annes and Whitley Bay. There have also been cash handouts of up to £100 per week but the water company is reluctant to discuss its compensation package. "Arrangements have been made with individuals who have had cause for complaint but the details are a private matter," says a spokesman.

Those who have benefited from the deals are, however, more forthcoming. One lady recently returned from a weekend in Lytham with her husband and two young children. Yorkshire Water, which is transferring 1.5 million gallons of water across the county in a fleet of more than 50 tankers, picked up the hotel bill and paid for a hired car. "It was relaxing until the minute we came home," she said. "The tankers are like monsters. It's like having a hurricane rumbling through your house."

Poetic tribute

JOHN SMITH is to be immortalised in music. A 20-minute work for solo tenor and orchestra by Keith Burstein is to be dedicated to the late Labour leader and premiered in London next month.

A Live Flame is based on the poems of John Keats, Robert Burns, Louis MacNeice, Robert Graves and in particular on *Inversnaid*, by Gerard Manley Hopkins, about the Loch Lomond town which was one of Smith's favourites. Appropriately, the concert will be played by London Musici at St John's, Smith Square.



THE TIMES DIARY

● *An exhibit from a display of books by artists at the Tate Gallery has been stolen. The thief entered his name in the visitors' book with the comment: "I liked the exhibition so much that I kept the book." His booty is reportedly worth about £60.*

OOPPS

A SELECT number of Tory MPs has received an intriguing invitation from Spencer Batiste, the non-descript Conservative Member for Elmet. He implores its recipients to attend a dinner at the European Commission's office in London on November 29. "As you may know," writes Batiste grandly, "I act as PPS for Sir Leon Brittan and in this capacity am arranging a series of small dinners."

That any European Commissioner has a PPS will be a surprise to Lord Tebbit. He recently asked Her Majesty's Government "whether there has been created a post of parliamentary private secretary to European Commissioners". Baroness Chalker's reply was unequivocal: "No".

Batiste is unabashed. "I'm not an official PPS," he says. "It's not a formal government role. I keep Sir Leon in touch with what's going on at Westminster. Former Prime Ministers do have PPSs."

Death duties

THE FLORID-FACED chairman of Heinz, Tony O'Reilly, introduced his guest speaker at The Ireland Fund of Great Britain's annual luncheon yesterday as Albert Reynolds "the businessman".

Dr O'Reilly, who had just flown in from Boston, said that long before the former Taoiseach went into politics, he was an astute businessman who considered taxes to be "an optional extra". On one occasion, he said, a Revenue Commissioner spent four days examining Mr Reynolds's books in growing amazement. On the fourth day, the commissioner pronounced: "Mr Reynolds, you must pay your taxes . . . or we will follow you to your deathbed."

"Bejabers," replied Reynolds, "if they're prepared to wait that long, then they've got a deal."

● *Jonathan Dimbleby, whose documentary on the Prince of Wales is said to have persuaded the Princess to bare her soul for* Panorama, *is being considered by the ITV network as anchorman for the general election. The BBC's election night maestro, David Dimbleby, is said to be appalled at the prospect of competing with his brother.*

Jet rockette

THE CHAMPION boxer Chris Eubank has shown intellectual leanings. Now Jet, a raven-haired star of *Gladiators*, is studying geology on a modular course at an unspecified establishment.

She let slip her interest in rocks when in Cambridge the other day to promote her appearance in *Aladdin*. "Wow," she said after spotting a lump of limestone belonging to a geologically-minded undergraduate she encountered. "It's beautiful. I want it. I want that rock."



Jet: in love with rocks

The university's geology faculty hopes it may have struck a seam — and discovered a latterday Zuleika Dobson for Cambridge.

P·H·S

صكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

WAIT AND WATCH

The balance to be struck between Princess and Prince

The Princess of Wales has once again captured the imagination of the country. For four more days the speculators will do their best and worst. Few know what she has said although many, including her estranged husband, know what she might have said in the lengthy interview to be broadcast on BBC's *Panorama* next Monday. The Prince of Wales could scarcely have asked for a worse birthday present than the disclosure that his wife has decided to put her side of their story directly before the people. He must only hope now that the result will be not too bad for him. We hope too that it will be not too bad for her and for their children.

The battle lines are already drawn. The Princess, it is said, has already embarrassed her husband and captured the headlines too often. She is accused by the usual unattributable sources of having acted deceitfully and against the interests of the nation and its first family. Blame is also hurled at the BBC for secretiveness in a matter which some have argued is beyond the normal business of a public service broadcaster. We would like to reserve our own judgment until the screening.

For more than three years, the heir to the throne and his wife have been engaged in this regrettable competition for the nation's sympathy. In 1992, the Princess was criticised for apparently co-operating with her sensationalist biographer, Andrew Morton. Last year, the Prince matched her indiscretion by admitting to infidelity in a BBC documentary, which was accompanied by Jonathan Dimbleby's supportive biography. More recently, the Prince has been seen in public with Camilla Parker Bowles at a mutual friend's party. He seems determined to habituate the nation to his relationship with her, even to her prospective suitability as a consort to the future King.

The Princess has her own quite separate agenda. She does not want to be seen as the villain of the piece. She also appears to have reversed her earlier decision to withdraw from public life and to wish once again to retain a prominent role in the life of the nation. It is important that she is allowed to find such a role — in charity if not in the solemnest ceremony.

It may be that she broke the rules of royal protocol by giving the *Panorama* interview without consulting the Palace. But whether that breach was in the national interest is not yet clear. It is to be hoped that her interview does not reveal a woman eager to take revenge on her husband and all he stands for. Whatever the rights and wrongs of his marriage, Prince Charles will one day be King. However aggrieved she may be, the Princess must do nothing to jeopardise his smooth accession or the institution of the monarchy. A measure of loyalty is still required of her, to her country if not to her husband. He, in turn, must accept her continued importance to the British people.

This interview will not be a matter of regret if the Princess has remained true to the roles she performed best. She is a persuasive ambassador for Britain's interests around the world, a defender of many worthy causes and an admirable mother to the young prince who will one day succeed her husband. She is perfectly entitled to speak of the personal grief that prompted her to reconsider her position in public life, the adversity she has faced, and the future she foresees. But there is a fine line that separates legitimate reflection from recrimination. The fewer revelations in Monday's programme, the better. What is clear is that sacrifice will be required of Prince and Princess alike if the best interests of the monarchy are to be served.

DUCK AND WEAVE

New laws for an election campaign that is well underway

The Government will dot and cross, clean and tidy, duck and weave: and do little else of legislative substance from now until the next election. The Queen did not put it quite in those words. But the content of this fourth-year offering from her Government tells all.

Gone are those early years when legislation was the end product of a philosophy, the turning of a political vision into reality. Now the Government is engaged in a high-stakes game of wits with the benches opposite. To judge by yesterday's legislative programme, the new session will be one attempt after another to trap Labour into opposing measures that might be expected to win populist support.

This is manifestly in the interests of a Conservative Party more than 30 points behind in the polls. The benefits for the country are more mixed. Successful politicians marry the two interests so that their party is rewarded for confident and responsible governance. Growing fear of defeat and a long record of poor competence have made this happy combination beyond John Major's reach.

This Queen's Speech was designed to avoid intra-party divisions as well as to highlight divisions between the parties: the only contentious Bill among Tories, on divorce, has been promised a free vote. Mr Blair, growing in confidence at the dispatch box, was able to dismiss it as a "pathetic mouse" without much fear of aggressive Tory defence.

Mice do tend to be rather pathetic late in a parliamentary term. Nor do bold mice necessarily benefit from boldness. The Bill to introduce the experiment of poll tax in Scotland was passed in the last year of the 1983-87 Parliament. This time, the dramatic proposals are being held back for the Tory manifesto. The election campaign has begun. But this is only a penultimate Queen's Speech. If the Government goes to its full term, what will it offer next year?

Of this year's offerings, Labour will probably support the new Broadcasting Bill, the Reserve Forces Bill and much of the Housing Bill. The most acrimonious fights across the floor will be over education and asylum. The extension of nursery education is a popular and sensible policy: the proposals to introduce nursery education vouchers cleverly attach to it the Conservative principle of choice. Most parents will welcome the chance to send their four-year-old to a private nursery school at the State's expense. But Labour will probably feel compelled to vote against the Bill, as it will also feel obliged to oppose measures to allow grant-maintained schools to borrow for expansion, if all schools are not allowed to do so.

The Asylum and Immigration Bill promises to be the most contentious of this batch of legislation. The Prime Minister was adamant yesterday that a new law was necessary to curb an increase in bogus asylum-seekers. Yet such a law was passed only two years ago, with tough powers to restrict the rights of appeal of asylum-seekers. Why has this not proved sufficient? Mr Blair, quite reasonably, asked why simply speeding up the application process would not deal with the problem. It is a question which will be asked again. There is not much else new here to talk about.

INSIDE ISRAEL

Shimon Peres must now deal firmly with the danger within

With the end of the official period of mourning for the murdered Yitzhak Rabin, Israeli politics has started to return to a little of its customary bustle. The wounds to society and nation, inflicted by the unaccustomed bullets of a Jewish extremist, may now always remain raw. But the purposefulness of Shimon Peres, the man who has inherited charge of a dazed Israel, has at least ensured that the country's trauma does not paralyse the hands of its elected peacemakers.

Mr Peres appears to have rejected the option of early elections, preferring instead to focus on the certitudes which Mr Rabin had striven to establish. Those are, first, a commitment to peace with the Palestine Liberation Organisation of Yassir Arafat, on terms agreed in the Oslo accord and its concomitant pacts; and secondly, a pursuit of peace with other Arab states — immediate neighbours as well as those further afield — in order to change in the course of a generation the face of the Middle East.

In ensuring the early and uncomplicated departure of Israeli troops from Jenin, the first of the six major Palestinian towns in the occupied West Bank from which Israel is pledged to withdraw, Mr Peres has sent to Mr Arafat an early indication of his good faith. The departure from Jenin also announced — as much to Mr Arafat as to Israeli opponents of peace — that while the death of Mr Rabin may have shaken the morale of the Israeli Government, it has not shaken its belief in political conciliation with its erstwhile Palestinian foes.

Mr Peres has begun, also, to address the most vocal source of Israel's growing civil discord. The decision taken earlier in the week to restrict the entry into the Jewish state of Jewish extremists resident abroad, is perhaps the most radical measure ever directed at its "own people" by an Israeli Government. The measure may have come far too late, but it is still most welcome.

The move is astutely timed, given the widespread revulsion in Israel towards those who would — by their violent words and actions — seek to overturn the policies of peace for which Mr Rabin gave his life. That revulsion is now being channelled into a constructive affirmation of the rule of law: on Tuesday, scores of Jewish settlers were indicted on charges of violent agitation. These include such disreputable opponents of peace as Rabbi Moshe Levinger of Hebron, Baruch Marzel and Itamar Ben-Gvir of the virulently anti-Arab group Eyal.

Mr Peres should also begin to disarm those settler communities with consistent records of violence against unarmed Palestinians — and whose members threaten to impede the Israeli withdrawal from towns on the West Bank. Mr Rabin, it is no secret, considered just such action in the aftermath of the massacre in Hebron last February: but Israeli public opinion, then less inured to the peace process than it is now, was thought not to be ready for a showdown with the armed Right. But now that an Israeli foe of peace has shot dead an elected Prime Minister, Israeli society should be more prepared than ever to support an assiduous crackdown on Jewish extremists. Mr Peres now has the perfect chance to prevent another bloody internal crisis. He must not waste the opportunity.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Diplomacy and direct action in dealings with Nigeria

From the Director General of Survival International

Sir, Those who assert that human rights violations should be addressed by diplomacy and talk rather than positive action are, to say the least, naive. I have been involved in trying to protect the rights of oppressed people for 26 years and have never, not once, come across a case where "behind the scenes" talk, be it with governments, companies or development banks, has made one iota of difference.

The brutal murder of nine Ogoni by a Nigerian dictatorship to which other Commonwealth countries had "appealed" for clemency (leading articles, November 11 and 13) is a tragic illustration of the uselessness of the diplomatic approach. Several of those countries should have had enough sense to know this.

There are many tools available to governments: freezing assets and bank accounts, sanctions, withdrawal of diplomatic relations, vociferous protest at the UN (even — though perhaps least — expulsion from the Commonwealth) and so on. If governments really sought protection of innocent people's rights, they would bring all these to bear as soon as gross and persistent violations are proven, not only after an intellectual is hanged.

I predict (always a dangerous game, of course) that the Nigerian dictatorship will not survive for long and that when it sent the Ogoni to the gallows it effectively placed a noose around its own neck. One tragedy is that it was not made to see this before the executions — it might have changed its mind.

Governments who claim that strong action against Nigeria could have made the situation even worse are wrong: that is another thing I have never seen in the last 26 years. Far from being an unusual example, Shell and the Nigerian Government's exploitation of Ogoni is actually the norm in many poor countries, and some rich ones.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN CORRY,
Director General,
Survival International,
11-15 Emerald Street, WC1.
November 13.

From Mr Imoro Abdulai Alhassan and others

Sir, Your leader of November 13, "Well-oiled tyranny: Words will never hurt Nigeria's military dictators", advocates precisely what needs to be done by politicians, international organisations and governments that care for the prevention of the impending conflict in Nigeria.

Unless drastic action is taken — such as the freezing of the assets of senior government officials, the stoppage of the importation of Nigerian oil, the expulsion of Nigeria from the Commonwealth, the Organisation of African Unity and the United Nations, and the total withdrawal of diplomatic missions in Nigeria — the vicious military dictatorship will bring Nigeria to total self-destruction, as in Liberia, Somalia and Afghanistan.

The world needs to adopt similar tactics to those used by the opponents of apartheid before February 1990. Just as sanctions helped in the struggle against the white minority regime in South Africa, so comprehensive sanctions will help the democratic forces in Nigeria. We suggest that a boycott of Nigerian oil will be a sacrifice that Nigerians (like black South Africans) will be prepared to pay for the elimination of despotism.

Without international action to dislodge the military regime, the world will pay dearly when the dictatorship is challenged by internal means. The population of Nigeria is about a hundred million, and any hot conflict would be a disaster for the rest of West Africa. After Rwanda, failure by the international community to support the democratic forces in Nigeria would be unacceptable. Future generations would not forgive us.

A speedy return to the mandate of June 12, 1993, by which Nigerians elected Chief Moshood Abiola as their President, is essential.

Yours etc,
IMORO ABDULAI ALHASSAN
(Africa Research and Information Centre, London),
TAJUDEEN ABDUL RAHEEM
(Secretary General,
Pan African Movement, Uganda),
KWESI PRATT
(Managing Editor,
Weekly Insight, Ghana),
ZAYA YEEBO
(Editor, *The African*),
104 Wynford Road, N1.
November 14.

From Dr J. 'Kayode Fayemi

Sir, Matthew Parris suggests (article, November 13) that the future for democracy in Africa is bleak because it does not excite the same "passions" in Africans as does slaughter in tribal conflict. This is to misconstrue silence for acquiescence and to dismiss the daily heroic battles fought by Africans against various dictators propped up by Western powers.

This sort of view was responsible for Western failure to respond quickly to the Rwanda crisis. It should not be allowed to affect the current focus on Nigeria and the need to have a comprehensive sanctions package, as advocated in your leading article of November 13.

What Nigerians require from the international community is an insistence on the same democratic principles which have brought about good governance in other countries. If this requires the sanctions weapon, then so be it.

Yours sincerely,
J. 'KAYODE FAYEMI,
19 Bellingham Road, Catford, SE6.
November 13.

From Sir Peter Smithers

Sir, There is an underlying lesson to be derived from the cruel and violent events in Nigeria. At the negotiations in the 1950s for Nigerian independence the doctrine in the Colonial Office was that this was a unique opportunity to set up a really substantial and powerful state in Black Africa: there were men of ability to lead it and the resources to back them.

In such circumstances, the French would have created several small states corresponding with ethnic differences. In retrospect we should have done the same.

We did not then have the advantage of having witnessed the problems of conglomerates such as post-imperial India, the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia, or the threatened break-up of Canada. The lesson is now clear. It is folly to force disparate ethnic groups into a single political conglomerate.

Not long ago the accepted wisdom favoured political union for Europe. It was to be a superpower with men of ability to lead it and the resources to back them. But the accepted wisdom is by definition behind the game. By the time it is accepted, events have moved on. The lesson in Nigeria is relevant to the project to force political union upon the nations of Europe. We have been warned by events, more than once.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
PETER SMITHERS
(Parliamentary Private Secretary, Colonial Office, 1952-59),
6921-Vico Morcote,
Switzerland.
November 14.

The Princess and the programme

From Sir David Money-Coutts

Sir, Though we shall all do so, it may not be for us to judge whether the Princess of Wales should give a television interview without Palace permission (reports, November 15). It is, however, for us as licence and taxpayers to judge whether the BBC, with a mandate to maintain broadcasting standards, should commission such an interview, without checking that that permission is in place. I believe it is quite out of order.

Free speech is a privilege not to be abused, least of all by a public corporation.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID MONEY-COUTTS,
Magpie House, Peppard Common,
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.
November 13.

From Mr Claud Morris

Sir, If you take away the oxygen of publicity, where would the Princess be? Is it not up to the newspapers and television to set the standard, or is this asking too much?

Or do we wait on the inevitable and the monarchy is destroyed?

Yours faithfully,
CLAUD MORRIS,
4 Vincent Square, SW1.
November 14.

From Lord Laing of Dunphail

Sir, You carry the following headlines today: "Frank answers promised on family, separation and the future", "The world queues to watch" (early editions).

How sad. Have we nothing better to do?

Yours sincerely,
LAING,
High Meadows, Windsor Road,
Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire.
November 15.

'Traitor' King

From Mr David Hart and Ms Sally Woodward

Sir, When John Grigg ("War truth about the 'traitor King'", November 14) sees our programmes, he may understand that our allegation about the Duke of Windsor's treachery is not demonstrated by the Duke's desire to see "the country ruled by Hitler as the price of his own restoration to the throne", but by the fact that he betrayed important secrets to the enemy. That is what we claim and that is what the programmes prove.

The programmes record the fact that the interview between Fulton Oursler and the Duke, which Grigg refers to, was published in the American magazine *Liberty* in March 1941. But this was a sanitised version of their meeting, which took place a week before Christmas 1940. In the full contemporaneous account, which remained under lock and key for 50 years, Oursler records that Edward regarded Hitler as "the right and logical leader of the German people . . . He regarded Hitler as a great man."

Oursler's account of the meeting describes how Edward and his aide Captain Vyvyan Drury set out to enlist his help to approach President Roosevelt to intervene to try to stop the war. Edward promised that if Mr Roosevelt would "make an offer of intervention for peace, that before anyone in England can oppose it [he would] instantly issue a statement supporting it and that will start a revolution in England and force peace".

Fulton Oursler promised to reveal none of this information as it was recognised that should he do so "the lid would be blown off the British Empire".

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HART,
SALLY WOODWARD
(Executive producers,
Edward VIII: The Traitor King),
Hart Ryan/Limelight Productions,
3 Bromley Place, Conway Street, W1.
November 14.

Hall of memories

From Dame Joan Sutherland, OM, and Mr Richard Bonynge

Sir, The Kingsway Hall in central London, where we have made some of our finest recordings — not to mention those of Callas, Furtwängler, Beecham and Karajan — has recently been bought by a property developer. Although it is currently gutted, it forms a part of Britain's finest musical heritage.

If the Department of National Heritage, and the National Lottery in particular, are to serve their purpose, now is the moment to make sure that this historic hall is saved and fully restored. Its shape and size help the artists give of their very best. The sooner it is used again for recording the better.

Yours faithfully,
JOAN SUTHERLAND,
RICHARD BONYNGE,
Chalet Monet,
Route de Sonloup,
1833 Les Avants, Switzerland.
November 14.

Oyster scarcity

From Professor R. R. Neild

Sir, I doubt whether the Slipper Limpet was a more important explanation of the decline of the British oyster than over-fishing, as Mr Jon Miller suggests (letter, November 14).

Certainly this limpet did great damage to our oysters, as did another pest with a delightful name, the Whelk Tingle. But the importation of the American oysters which carried these two pests took place only because overfishing had already made our British oysters so scarce.

Between 1850 and 1900 the price of oysters in Britain rose ten times (after adjustment for inflation): our annual oyster production fell from something between 500 and 1,000 million to 40 million. Those were the conditions that caused American oysters, unknown in Britain in 1850, to be brought across the Atlantic at a rate of 120 million a year at the turn of the century, bearing pests.

The crucial point in the history of the British oyster, I believe, is that when scarcity set in after the great increase in oyster fishing between 1830 and 1850, British governments failed to adopt a policy of conservation; instead they eased such restraints as there were.

That governments should calculatedly encourage a free-for-all for a threatened exhaustible species is hard to believe today, but that is what happened then — in England but not in France.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT NEILD
(Author, *The English, the French and the Oyster*),
Trinity College, Cambridge.
November 14.

Assisted places 'fraud'

From the General Secretary of the Independent Schools Joint Council

Sir, Your headline today suggests that a fifth of assisted places at independent schools are obtained fraudulently. The report beneath made it clear that this figure referred to an estimate of attempts to cheat which had been detected.

There will always be attempts to claim state benefits fraudulently. In the vast majority of cases they fail. Not only are the schools in the assisted places scheme very experienced in assessing parents' financial circumstances but the procedure includes checks with the Inland Revenue.

That being so, would it not be of greater interest to report that more than two fifths of assisted-place (AP) pupils pay no fees at all because the family income is less than £9,500 and that more than nine out of ten of the young people in the scheme go to university?

Yours etc,
ARTHUR HEARNDEN,
General Secretary,
Independent Schools Joint Council,
35-37 Grosvenor Gardens, SW1.
November 13.

From the Headmaster of Exeter School

Sir, I do not believe that, as your headline suggested, 10 per cent of our assisted-place pupils are at Exeter School as a result of fraud. It may be that 10 per cent of *applicants* for assisted places really do have income in excess of the ceiling which, for Exeter School, is under £25,000. However, the procedures are fully carried through to screen out those above the limit.

We always attempt to allocate assisted places to bright children from less well-off households. Out of 170 AP holders, 108 have parents whose income is below £15,000 and of these the income of 76 is so low (under £9,500) that their parental contribution is nil. Only two sets of parents have income in excess of £23,000.

On the basis of these figures, I have no evidence of the wealthy cashing in on the scheme.

Yours faithfully,
NEIL GAMBLE, Headmaster,
Exeter School, Exeter, Devon.
November 14.

From the Headmaster of Merchant Taylors' School

Sir, On Merseyside it would not be hard to detect fraudulent applications for assisted places. As a local school, we know our assisted-place families and we know that their income returns (all verified by the Inland Revenue) are genuine. Of our AP families 80 per cent are on full assistance, 20 per cent are on income support.

In the depressed urban centres of the country, the AP scheme enables the academic children of working people to fulfil their potential, an opportunity sadly denied to many others since the demise of the grammar schools.

Why else does Tony Blair send his child to a maintained school that is comprehensive in name alone?

Yours sincerely,
SIMON DAWKINS, Headmaster,
Merchant Taylors' School,
Crosby, Liverpool 23.
November 14.

Tory women

From Mrs Alison McNair

Sir, Your report (November 10) that until last week no Tory association had chosen a female prospective parliamentary candidate since the last general election makes me feel like a non-person.

A great deal has been written about the positive sexual discrimination in the Labour Party but little about the encouragement of women in the Conservative Party. In Bath, the Conservatives not only selected a woman but also at the final meeting selected from two women. This was not positive discrimination but selection on merit.

Yours sincerely,
ALISON McNAIR
(Prospective Conservative Parliamentary Candidate for Bath),
Bath Conservative Association,
Pitt House, 20 Crescent Lane, Bath.
November 10.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Taxing questions

From Mr Edward Thomas

Sir, The Bishop of Croydon and others (letter, November 8; further letters, November 13) suggest that 70 per cent of the nation should badger politicians to do more for the 30 per cent on their uppers. The fact is that the 70 per cent are already bankrolling the 30 per cent to the tune of £90 billion every year.

However, if the Bishop wants politicians to get me to fork out even more, I am agreeable. I see every reason to help those who are in need through no fault of their own, especially the parent rendered single because of the premature death of a spouse.

But if the Bishop expects me to pay for people's mistakes, accidents, recklessness, or determination to pursue a way of life that is not self-financing, he needn't knock on my door.

Yours truly,
EDWARD THOMAS,
Flat 4,
21 Jevington Gardens,
Eastbourne, East Sussex.
November 14.

Remember the RAF

From Air Chief Marshal Sir Nigel Maynard

Sir, I write this as I watch the televised Service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph and I see four royal princes, three in naval uniform and one in army uniform.

Three of these princes hold senior ranks in the Royal Air Force, yet once again the junior service is ignored.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL MAYNARD,
Manor House,
Piddington, Bicester, Oxfordshire.
November 12.

Scales of justice

From Mr William A. Croft

Sir, An Old Bailey fraud trial, which may have cost the taxpayer as much as £6 million, has ended with all seven defendants being acquitted (report, November 15).

The jury was reduced in number, one member having been arrested for fraud. How stupid of the Powers that Be to reject the possible expert and rely on amateurs.

Yours,
WILLIAM A. CROFT,
5 Butterworth Gardens,
Woodford Green, Essex.
November 15.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 15: The Queen, accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, went in State to the Palace of Westminster today to open the Session of Parliament.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness drove in a Carriage Procession, escorted by a Sovereign's Escort of the Household Cavalry, and were received at the Sovereign's Entrance by the Lord Great Chamberlain and the Earl Marshal.

Guards of Honour were mounted at Buckingham Palace by The Queen's Guard found by the 1st Battalion Scots Guards and at the Palace of Westminster by the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards.

A staircase party of the Household Cavalry was on duty at Victoria Tower, House of Lords.

Gun Salutes were fired in Green Park by The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, and from the Tower of London Saluting Battery by the Honourable Artillery Company.

The Imperial State Crown, the Sword of State and the Cap of Maintenance were conveyed previously to the House of Lords in a Carriage Procession, escorted by a Regalia Escort of the Household Cavalry.

Her Majesty's Body Guard of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms was on duty in the Prince's Chamber and The Queen's Body Guard of the Yeomen of the Guard was on duty in the Royal Gallery.

The Ladies and Gentlemen of the Household in Waiting and the Pages of Honour to The Queen were in attendance at the Palace of Westminster.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh returned to Buckingham Palace and were received by the Lord Chamberlain and the Vice-Chamberlain of the Household.

Sir William Deane was received in audience by Her Majesty upon his appointment as the next Governor-General of Australia.

Lady Deane was also received by The Queen.

The Rt Hon John Major MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an audience of Her Majesty this evening.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron, Outward Bound Trust, this afternoon attended the Outward Bound General Council at Yorkshire Television Studios, Leeds, and this evening attended a Reception and Dinner at Harewood House.

His Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of West Yorkshire (Mr John Lyles).

Major Charles Richards was in attendance.

November 15: The Prince Edward this morning arrived at Heathrow Airport, London, from Adelaide, South Australia. Lieutenant-Colonel Sean O'Dwyer was in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 15: The Princess Royal this morning departed Qatar for Kuwait where Her Royal Highness called upon The Amir (His Highness Shaikh Jabir al Ahmed al Jabir Al Sabah).

Her Royal Highness attended a Luncheon given by The Amir at Bayan Palace.

The Princess Royal's engagements also included visits to a new Staff College, the British Council and Kuwait University.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
November 15: The Prince of Wales this morning visited the Land of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.

His Royal Highness later toured a farm near Dompachtgut Dehmen.

The Prince of Wales this afternoon attended a Reception with farmers and environmentalists at Schloss Vietgest.

His Royal Highness afterwards toured the Ecological Employment Initiative, Krummenhagen.

The Prince of Wales later toured the City of Stralsund.

His Royal Highness subsequently attended a Civic Reception given by the Mayor of Stralsund.

The Prince of Wales this evening attended a production of "Anna Bolena" given by the Bavarian State Opera in Munich.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 15: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, was present at the State Opening of Parliament this morning.

Her Royal Highness, President, the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, was present this evening at a Private View of the Fabergé Exhibition at The Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace.

November 15: The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester were present this morning at the State Opening of Parliament, House of Lords, Westminster, London SW1.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
November 15: The Duke and Duchess of Kent this morning attended the State Opening of Parliament.

The Duke of Kent, Patron, the Civil Service Motoring Association Limited, this afternoon opened Britannia House, Station Street, Brighton, East Sussex, and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of East Sussex (Admiral Sir Lindsay Bryson).

His Royal Highness, Patron, later visited the Hanover Band's prospective new premises, the Old Market Arts Centre, Brunswick Square, Hove, and visited the Stanley Deason School, Wilson Avenue, Brighton, East Sussex.

Mr Nicolas Adamson was in attendance.

Birthdays today

Mr Peter Ainsworth, MP, 39; Mr Frank Bruno, boxer, 34; Mr Willie Carson, jockey, 53; Lord Fairhaven, 59; Mrs Zina Garrison-Jackson, tennis player, 32; Viscount Goschen, 30; Sir John Hanson, Director-General, British Council, 57; Sir Colin Marshall, chairman, British Airways, 62; Professor W.G Overend, former Master, Birkbeck College, 74; Mr Griff Rhys Jones, actor, writer and producer, 42.

Sir Giles Shaw, MP, 64; Mr John G. Stenhouse, former chairman, Stenhouse Holdings, 87; Canon H.J. Stuart, former chaplain-in-chief, RAF, 69; Sir Edward Tomkins, diplomat, 80; Mr David Wilson-Johnson, baritone, 45; Professor Sir Magdi Yacoub, cardiothoracic surgeon, 60; Professor Michael Zander, professor of law, 63.

Lady Clio Crawford

A memorial service for the life of Lady Clio Crawford will be held at the Greek Cathedral of St Sophia, Moscow Road, W2, on December 6, at 6pm.

Luncheon

Blacksmiths' Company
Dr N. Carey, Director-General of the City and Guilds of London Institute, presented the Blacksmiths' Company medals and trophies at the annual awards luncheon held yesterday at Armourers' and Brasiers' Hall, Mr Clifford Champion, Prime Warden, presided. The recipients were:
Silver Medals: Mr Terence Clark and Mr Brian Russell.
Bronze Medal: Mr Paul Allen.
1995 National Champion Blacksmiths Cup: Mr Bob Hobbs.
1995 British Army Challenge Cup: Sapper P G Thetford.

Red squirrels lose more ground to their rivals

Threat to last grey-free county in England

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY
COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

AMERICAN grey squirrels have invaded one of the last bastions in England of the native red, which has been in decline for much of this century.

The interlopers have been seen for the first time in public parks in Newcastle upon Tyne, raising fears that they could become established in the city and spread to the rest of the county.

Keith Merrin, of the Northumberland Wildlife Trust, said: "These sightings are particularly worrying because this was regarded as the last grey-free county in mainland England. History shows that once greys colonise an area, it is the beginning of the end for reds."

The red squirrel, *Sciurus vulgaris*, once found throughout Britain, has been in retreat for 60 years. As the red has disappeared, the American grey, *Sciurus carolinensis*, has moved in. Greys were introduced to about 30 sites in England between 1876 and 1929 in the days before the dangers of exotic imports were recognised.

Reds are now extinct in southern England apart from the Isle of Wight and small islands in Poole Harbour, Dorset. Substantial populations remain only in Cumbria, Northumberland and Scotland. Greys have been present for some time in Scotland and Cumbria.

There are now 2.5 million grey squirrels, compared with 160,000 reds, a 15 to one advantage, according to a recent census of Britain's mammals. Scotland is the main red stronghold with 120,000, England having only 30,000 and Wales 10,000.

Research suggests that greys prosper because they are more adventurous in competing for food and habitat. The broadleaved woods found over much of lowland England strongly favour greys, while reds, specialised feeders on conifer seeds, seem able to hold their own, if at all, only in pine forests.

Mr Merrin said: "The greys are especially good at adapting to an urban setting. Our fear is that if they become established in Newcastle they could use the city as a jumping-off point for the rest of the county."

Trapping and shooting of greys is allowed, but the most effective method of control, putting out poisoned food, is prohibited because of the risk of killing reds as well.

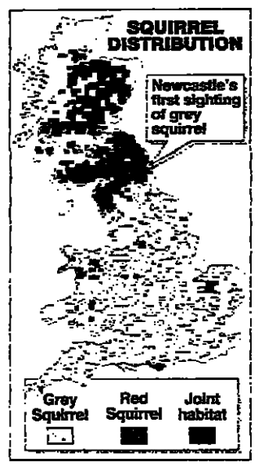
To overcome this difficulty, the Forestry Commission is now carrying out trials of feeding hoppers designed to be accessible only to greys. These could be in use by 1997.

Tony Mitchell-Jones, chief mammal ecologist at English Nature, the body that advises the Government on conservation, said: "Any culling of greys will have to be handled very delicately. Greys may be undesirable aliens, but people have grown fond of them, especially as they are the only squirrels to be seen in many places."

BARRY GREENWOOD



The red squirrel: outnumbered 15 to one by its American cousin



The European Commission

Lord St John of Fawsley, Chairman of the Royal Fine Art Commission, opened the European exhibition entitled the Preservation of the European Architectural Heritage and the European Award for Contemporary Architecture 1994 at the London Underwriting Centre, Minster Court, on Tuesday, November 14. Mr Aristotelis Bouratsis, Head of Cultural Programmes Unit of the European Commission, presided.

Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Members of both Houses of Parliament, representatives of the Institution of Civil Engineers and distinguished architects were present at a reception held afterwards.

School news

Reading Blue Coat School
Mr Maurice J. Sheen, TD, MA, B Ed, currently Senior Deputy Head, Kingswood School, Bath has been appointed to succeed the Rev Allan C.E. Sanders as Headmaster from September 1996.

Reigate Grammar School
The Governors of Reigate Grammar School are pleased to announce the appointment of Mr P.V. Dixon, MA, as Headmaster of Reigate Grammar School to succeed Mr J.G. Hamlin who will be retiring at the end of the Summer Term 1996. Mr Dixon is at present Second Master of Stockport Grammar School.

Dinners

Anglo-Portuguese Society
The Portuguese Ambassador, accompanied by Mrs Costa Lobo and Mr John Shakespeare, chairman of the executive committee, and Mrs Shakespeare, presided and received the guests at the annual dinner of the Anglo-Portuguese Society held yesterday at the Langham Hilton. The Secretary General of the Western European Union, and Lord Carrington, KG, CH, were the speakers. The Ambassadors of Mozambique, Spain, Angola, and Nicaragua and Sir Michael Simpson-Orlebar, Director General of Canning House, were among the guests.

Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners
Mr Tim Bennett, Deputy-Chairman of STEP and Chairman of its International Committee, presided at the second Annual Dinner held at the Lansdowne Club. Sir John Mummery was guest speaker, and Mr John Roper was guest of honour. Among those present were:
Professor David Heyton, Mr John Mowbray, QC, Professor Adrian Shipwright, Mr Richard Cliron (Hon Treasurer), Mr Simon Jennings, Mr Roger Peters, Mr Chris Cooke, Mr Richard Hay, Mr Owen Clutton, Ms Eliza Mellor, Mrs Phillippa Blake-Roberts, Mr Nic Stones, Mr Peter Penton, Mr Edward Davidson, QC, Ms Dahan Bouchard, Mr Roderick Balfour and Ms Dawn Nicholson.

Past Overseers' Society
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Westminster attended the annual dinner of the Past Overseers' Society of St Margaret and St John Westminster held last night at the Reform Club. Mr J.L.C. Dribbell, vice-chairman, presided. Mr Graham Mather, MEP, also spoke.

Foundation for Science and Technology
Lord Butterworth, Chairman of the Council of the Foundation for Science and Technology, presided at a lecture and dinner discussion held last night at the Royal Society. Mr Robert Margetts, Professor Arthur Francis and Mr Alastair Macdonald were the speakers.

RICS
Mr Peter Roe presided at the annual dinner of the Quantity Surveyors division of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors held last night at Grosvenor House. Mr Robert Jones, MP, and Mr Humphrey Lyttleton also spoke.

Cheshire Lieutenancy

The following have been appointed Deputy Lieutenants of Cheshire:
The Hon Richard Cornwall-Legh, of Knutsford; Mr Sebastian B.J.Z. de Ferranti, of Macclesfield; Mrs D.M. McConnell, of Puddington; Lieutenant-Colonel D.H. McLellan, of Ollerton; Mr J. Platt, of Lach Dennis; Mr A.W.A. Spiegelberg, of Tarporley.

Royal Marines

Major-General D.A.S. Pennefather, Royal Marines, to be Commandant General Royal Marines in succession to Lieutenant-General Sir Robert Ross in March 1996 in the rank of major-general.

Receptions

Argentine Ambassador
The Argentine Ambassador, Señor Rogelio Pfirter, and Sir Sigmund Sternberg, received the guests at a reception held yesterday at the Argentine Embassy. Mr Boris Kalnicki, President of the Argentine Council of Christians and Jews, spoke.

Inter-Parliamentary Union
Dame Jill Knight, MP, Chairman, and the Executive Committee of the British group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, were the hosts at a reception held yesterday at the Palace of Westminster after the State Opening of Parliament. Members of the Cabinet and Heads of Diplomatic Missions in London were among those present.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
Mr George Foulkes, MP, Joint Honorary Treasurer of the UK branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, was the host yesterday at a reception held in the Houses of Parliament by the executive committee for the High Commissioners and other representatives of Commonwealth countries in London and visiting Commonwealth members attending the State Opening of Parliament.

Guild of Freemen of the City of London
Mr Alderman and Mrs Clive Martin were the hosts at a reception held last night at Stationers' Hall for members of the Guild of Freemen of the City of London and their guests.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Patron of the Outward Bound Trust, will visit Oakdale Bakeries, Leeds, at 9.40; and will visit St James's Hospital, Leeds, at 10.35.

Princess Alexandra, as Patron of the Bournemouth Orchestras, will attend a gala concert at St James's Palace at 7.00 to mark the 25th anniversary of the Bournemouth Sinfonietta.

Church of Scotland

Ordinations and inductions
The Rev Alison Granger to Shettleston Old, Glasgow; the Rev George M. Murray to St Margaret's Tollcross Park, Glasgow; the Rev Una B Stewart to Orwell with Portnoak; the Rev Ian Taylor to Viewfield, Stirling.

Induction
The Rev Ranald Gauld to St Rufus & Botriphnie, Keith.

Translations
The Rev James S H Cutler from Kilmun (St Munn's) with Strone & Ardentinny to Coldstream with Eccles.

Retirements
The Rev Frank Gibson from Kilarrow with Kilmeny; the Rev John R Callen from Lochgilphead; the Rev Glyn R Taverner from Maxton & Mertoun with St Boswells; the Rev Duncan Capewell from Beith; the Rev Alison Jaffrey from Forth St Paul's; the Rev Alexander Tait from St Enoch's Hogganfield, Glasgow; the Rev Thomas M Logan from Abbotsford, Clydebank; the Rev Ronald A.A. Gale from Old & St Cuthbert's, Dunoon.

University news

Oxford
Linacre College
Mr Paul Slack, Fellow of Exeter College, Oxford, has been appointed Principal of Linacre College, Oxford. He will succeed Sir Bryan Cartledge, who retires next summer.

University prizes
The Nuclear Electric Prize in Mathematical Modelling and Numerical Analysis 1995 has been awarded to Keith Adam Gillow, St Catherine's College.
George Webb Medley Junior Prize(s) 1995: The examiners have agreed to award a prize to Nicholas J. Campsie, Exeter College (£150) and Alan J. Renwick, Merton College (£150).
The Peter Tizard Prize in Paediatrics has been awarded to Christopher Turner, University College. Proxime accessit: Simon J. Morley, Green College.

Royal Society of Edinburgh

The following have been elected for the 1995-96 session of the Royal Society of Edinburgh:
President, Dr T L Johnston; Vice-Presidents, Sir Kenneth Alexander, Professor M B Wilkins and Dr A D Milne; General Secretary, Professor V B Proudfoot; Treasurer, Sir Lewis Robertson; Curator, Professor F Willett.

Eton luncheon

Lyttelton's
The Lyttelton Club luncheon was held yesterday at the Cavalry and Guards Club. Among those present were:
Major D M Agnew, Mr C M E Davson, Major D L Greenacre, Mr R M Lowe and Mr M T Warburton.

Appointments

Mr Jonathan Marsden to be Deputy Surveyor of The Queen's Works of Art. He will succeed Mr Hugh Roberts who becomes Director of the Royal Collection and Surveyor of The Queen's Works of Art on the retirement of Sir Geoffrey de Bellaigue in March 1996. Mr Marsden will join the Royal Collection in February 1996.

Mr S.R. Davie to be a member of the Council on Tribunals for three years from November 1.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr S. Beri
and Miss L.J.M. Furber
The engagement is announced between Sanjay, younger son of Mr and Mrs Suraj Beri, of New Delhi, India, and Lucinda, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Jeremy Furber, of Queen Charlton, Bristol.

Mr S.J. Byles
and Miss E.A. Ling
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Dr P.H. and Dr J.M. Byles, of Hinton-in-the-Hedges, Northamptonshire, and Elisa, daughter of Mr H.T.N. Ling and Mrs R.H. Bonas, of Andover, Hampshire.

Mr D.G. Davies
and Miss A.V.B. Harford
The engagement is announced between Daniel, elder son of Mr and Mrs Jon Davies, of Newcastle upon Tyne, and Annabel, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Harford, of Chesterblade, Somerset.

Mr H.G. Fetherstonhaugh
and Miss D. MacLeod
The engagement is announced between Henry, younger son of the late Major David Fetherstonhaugh and of the Hon Mrs Mary Chaworth-Musters, of Jacksdale, Nottinghamshire, and Davina, daughter of Mr and Mrs Duncan MacLeod, of Kilwinning, Ayrshire.

Mr J.E.G. Hunt
and Miss S.R. Kinch
The engagement is announced between John, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Gerry Hunt, of Bentley, Doncaster, and Sharon, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Thomas Kinch, of Blessington, Co Wicklow, Ireland.

Mr P.L.C. Knechtli
and Miss H.L. Montgomery
The engagement is announced between Patrick, youngest son of Mr and Mrs David Knechtli, of London, and Hannah, daughter of Mr and Mrs Desmond Montgomery, of Cupar, Fife.

Mr J.L. Nicol
and Miss S.T. Forde
The engagement is announced between Julian, only son of Mrs Angela Nicol, of Meols and the late Mr Maurice Nicol, and Tamsin, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Nigel Forde, of York.

Mr M. Vlassopulos
and Miss K. Holden
The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr Tony Vlassopulos, of Weybridge, Surrey, and Mrs Jan Webb, of Westcott, Surrey, and Karen, daughter of Mr and Mrs, Ernest Holden, of Newton St Faith, Norwich, Norfolk.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: John Bright, anti-Corn Laws campaigner, Rochdale, Lancashire, 1811; Paul Hindemith, composer, Hanau, Germany, 1895; Sir Oswald Mosley, Labour minister and founder of the British Union of Fascists, London, 1896.

DEATHS: King Henry III, reigned 1216-72, London, 1272; Perkin Warbeck, pretender to the throne, executed, London, 1499; John Walter, founder of *The Times*, Teddington, Middlesex, 1812; G.A. Henty, war correspondent and writer of stories for boys, Weymouth, 1902; Tyrone Power, actor, Madrid, 1958; Clark Gable, actor, Hollywood, 1960; William Cosgrave, President of the Executive Council of the Irish Free State 1922-32, Dublin, 1965.

Jack Sheppard, highwayman, was executed at Tyburn, London, 1724.

The Soviet Union launched *Venus III*, an unmanned spacecraft, that successfully landed on Venus, 1965.

Hamilton Hume, the explorer, discovered the Murray River, the longest in Australia, 1824.

New ambassador

Mr Marcus Hope has been appointed Ambassador to Zaire, from mid-January 1996, in succession to Mr Roger Westbrook who has moved to a new Diplomatic Service appointment.

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Psalm 71 : 7 (REB)

BIRTHS

BAINBRIDGE - On 7th November, to Katherine (née Godber) and Guy, a daughter, Emily, a sister for Oliver.

BREWER - On November 12th, to Sara (née Godfrey) and Mark, a son, Archie Godfrey Tom, a brother for George.

HARRISON - On November 11th at The Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, to Janey (née Lloyd) and Christopher, a daughter, Katia Clementine, a sister for Oliver, Georgia and Henry.

HEARLEY - On November 12th 1995, to Kim and Graham, a beautiful daughter, Claire Jane Diana Toyah.

HUSSEY - On November 13th, to Emma (née Shelley) and James, a son, Arthur Eric, a brother for Rosa.

MANNERS - On November 9th, to Samantha (née Jukes) and Robert, a son, Orlando Douglas, a brother for Archie.

McILRATH - On 20th October 1995, to Rachael (née Heenan) and Andrew, a beautiful son, Frazer Hugh.

O'REILL - On 1st November 1995, at Solihull Hospital, to Paul and Lindsey, a beautiful healthy daughter, Danielle Marie, weighing 8lbs ½oz.

PALENGAT - On November 11th, to Amanda (née Bradbeer) and Richard, a daughter, Annabel Josephine.

PRIOR - On November 14th 1995, to Spencer and Clare, a daughter, Charlotte Louise.

ROBINSON - On Sunday 12th November, to Penelope (née Somerville) and Trevor, a beautiful daughter, Charlotte Elizabeth.

SAVAGE - On November 3rd 1995, to Luke and Diana (née Chiesman), a son, James, a brother for Annabel.

STELZER/LANDAU - To Joe and Annabel a gorgeous son Benjamin Max on October 30th at The Portland Hospital.

DEATHS

ARDEN-CLOSE - Colonel Richard Fetherston Arden-Close, late K.S.L.I. Peacefully on 11th November. Funeral Service at St Mary's Church, Winchfield, Hants., on Monday 20th November at 3pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to St Mary's Church c/o A.W. Goddards, Kent Road, Fleet.

BAGOT - On November 13th at her home in Painswick, Glos., Finetta, after a long illness most bravely borne; dearly loved mother of Christopher and Veronica and much loved by her seven grandchildren. Cremation private. A Service of Thanksgiving for her life will be held at 11 am on Saturday 16th December at St Mary's Church, Painswick. No flowers please, but if desired, donations may be made to The Cotswold Day Care Hospice, Burleigh Lane, Minchinhampton, Stroud, Glos. GL6 2PQ.

BEATTY - William Fitzgerald, "Bill", suddenly on November 13th, aged 86. A most dearly beloved husband, father, grandfather and friend. Service of thanksgiving for a wonderful life, Wednesday, November 22nd, 12 noon at Amberley Parish Church, Stroud, Glos. (Tel: 01453 872255). All friends welcome. Safe journey, Bill.

BLAKISTON - Rachel Georgiana, widow of Noel Blakiston, on November 15th, peacefully in her sleep at home (aged 92).

CALLAN - On November 14th, peacefully at home, after a long illness patiently borne, James Henry, aged 72 years, husband of Olive, father of Mark, Margaret, Paul and Jane and grandfather of Emma and James.

COLE - Gilbert Wedgwood on November 13th aged 76. A brave man. Much loved husband of Iris, loving father of Lyndis and proud grandfather of Robbie and Laura. Cremation private. Thanksgiving Service on Saturday November 25th at 2.30 pm at Peperharow Church, Shackleford. No flowers - but donations if wished to Leonard Cheshire Foundation, Hydon Hill, Godalming, GU8 4BA.

DAWES - On 14th November 1995, Alan aged 69 years. Beloved husband of Joan. Funeral Service at All Saints Church, Park Road, Peterborough on Thursday 23rd November at 1.15pm, followed by cremation. Family flowers only, donations for "Childrens Society" may be sent to John Lucas Funeral Directors, 31 Dogsthorpe Road, Peterborough PE1 3AE.

GEBEL - Pamela, the beloved wife of Adam, daughter of Helen and William Eley, after long illness, died peacefully 10th November 1995.

GOOZE ZIJL - Joannes Willem (Hans), peacefully on November 13th, at home in Kraainem (B), aged 71, beloved husband of Emmie and dearly loved father of Jan Willem, Melanie and Cynthia, he will be greatly missed. Funeral service at Zeist Cemetery, Woudenbergseweg 48/50, Zeist, Netherlands, on November 20th 1995, at 2pm.

HOLT - On November 14th 1995 in St Richard's Hospital, Chichester, Jack Holt OBE, aged 83. Beloved husband of Iris, father to Susan and grandfather to Steven and Annabelle. Funeral Service, Chichester Crematorium on Friday November 17th at 9.30 am. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to the Guide Dogs for the Blind c/o Edward White & Son, 5 South Pallant, Chichester, PO19 1SY. tel: (01243) 782136.

JENNINGS - On 14th November peacefully, Nancy, devoted wife of the late Martin and much loved by her daughter Angela and her family Tim, Philippa and Robert. Funeral Service at 2pm on Wednesday 29th November at All Saints Church, Waldron, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only but donations if desired for Waldron P.C.C. may be sent c/o Fuller & Scott, The Wakelyns, Lickfield, East Sussex TN22 1AJ, tel: (01825) 763241.

JENNINGS - Dr. Denys Arthur on November 14th, suddenly and peacefully at home, aged 91. Formerly of the Royal London Hospital. Greatly loved husband of Anita (Mandi). No flowers, please. Cremation private.

MELLOR - Peacefully on 13th November 1995, Morna Sybil (née Grant). Funeral Service at Buscombe Village Church at 2.30 pm on Monday 20th November 1995. Flowers or donations to Fauna and Flora Preservation Society c/o Gerald W. Burden, Funeral Directors, "Phoenix", Church Street, Amesbury, Wiltshire SP4 7EY.

PURVIS - On 14th November, 1995, very peacefully, Joanna Isabel, aged 88 years. Much loved wife of the late Victor Purvis, mother of Lucia and Christopher and stepmother of Ian and Julia. Funeral Service at St Michael and All Angels, Clifton Hampden, on Saturday, 25th November at 2 pm. Flowers to Edward Carter, Abingdon (Tel: 01235 528 293).

SIMMONS - On November 13th 1995 at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, Roberta Simmons - Bobbie, died suddenly, dearly loved wife of the late Bill Simmons, much loved 'Mo' to Karen and Rebecca and 'Bobba' to Lucy. Funeral Friday November 17th 3 pm at J.H. Kenyon, 83 Westbourne Grove, W2. Flowers to above.

STEPHENS - Peacefully in hospital on 13th November, Sir Robert Graham Stephens, aged 64. Sadly missed by family and friends. Funeral will be on Monday 20th November 1995, Golders Green Crematorium, West Chapel at 2.30 pm. Flowers or donations if desired to Liver Patients Support Group, Royal Free Hospital, c/o J.H. Kenyon, 9 Pond Street, Hampstead NW3 2PN.

TOMLINS - Anthony David on November 14th peacefully in his own bed at home aged 72, much loved husband of Diana and father of Martin and Anne. Funeral Wednesday November 22nd at 11 am East Sheen Cemetery, SW14.

TREADWELL - The Revd. Fr. Albert Frederick died quite peacefully on Tuesday 14th November 1995. Funeral Requiem at St Andrew's Church, Clewer, Windsor Friday 24th November at 11am. Family flowers only but donations, if desired, to Upton Hospital, Slough League of Friends c/o E. Sargeant & Son, 40 Church Street, Slough SL1 1PJ (01753) 820081, who will answer all enquiries.

VARDEY - On November 13th, after a courageous 21 year struggle, peacefully at home Lewis George, artist designer and musician, dearest husband and best friend of Edwina, brother of Dorothy, proud and devoted father of Lucinda, Melissa, Natalie, Giles and Edwina Louise; fond father-in-law and very dear grandfather to his five grandsons. Private burial. A service of commemoration of his life will be held at the Church of the Holy Spirit, Bell Lane, Fetcham, Leatherhead, Surrey on Monday November 20th at 12 noon. Family flowers only but donations if desired in his name to Cancer Research, made payable to 'Royal Marsden NHS Trust' and sent to Donations, Royal Marsden Hospital, Downs Road, Sutton, Sy. SM2 5PT.

WALDEGRAVE - Mary Hermione, Dowager Countess Waldegrave, widow of Geoffrey Noel, aged 86, at Chewton House, Chewton Mendip. Funeral at St Mary Magdalene, Chewton Mendip, Saturday 18th November at 3 pm.

WATSON - Bruce Edmeston, Brig. retd., on November 13th peacefully at home after a long illness bravely borne, beloved husband of Joan and much loved father of Sue, Gill and Andrew. Funeral Service at St Giles Church, Farnborough, Kent, Monday November 20th at 3 pm, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Army Benevolent Fund, Duke of York's Headquarters, Kings Road, London SW3.

WHINNEY - On November 16th, suddenly at Princess Elizabeth Hospital, St Peter Port, Mary (Maria) née Burges Watson, greatly loved by her whole family. Wife for 56 years of Patrick, mother of Stella, Sybil, and Simone, and grandmother of Nine. Funeral Tuesday 21st November, followed by private cremation. Full details from Martel's Funerals, St Peter Port, Guernsey. (Tel: 01481-44788) Family flowers only please. Donations in lieu most welcome to Guernsey Cheshire Home c/o undertakers.

YOUNG - Kenneth George, 1939-1945 Major R.A., 8th Army and Sudan Defence Force, after courageous fight on 31st October 1995, much loved by Paula and daughters Fleur, Camille, Virginia and also Dorcas Binns, dearest 'Buddy' to Amy and James. Donations if desired to Trinity Hospice, SW4 0RN.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

DZIERZYNSKI - Olgierd Emmanuel, aged 85 years, father of Andre, died September 14th 1995 in Boisover, Derbyshire. A Holy Mass for the repose of his soul will be said Sunday 19th November at 10 am at the Polish Church of St John, Ravenna Road, Putney, London SW15.

LANGFORD - A memorial service for Mr Brian Langford F.C.I.M. will be held at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Cannon Street, Dover, at 12 noon on Friday, December 8th, 1995. Advice of attendance would be appreciated; please telephone 01304 223851.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

BAUMANN - Mary, on this her birthday, remembered more and more, as time goes by. John, Frances and Richard.

STEVENS - Constance Joan, November 16th 1980. Remembering with deep affection our darling Connie, beloved wife, mother and nanny. Sadly missed by Bill, Joan, David and the family.

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OBITUARIES

AIR CHIEF MARSHAL SIR ANTHONY HEWARD

Air Chief Marshal Sir Anthony Heward, KCB, OBE, DFC and Bar, AFC, Air Member for Supply and Organisation, Ministry of Defence, 1973-76, died on October 27 aged 77. He was born on July 1, 1918.



Heward, right, with Earl Mountbatten, at the unveiling of a statue of Lord Portal in 1975

IN A career which took him from the biplanes of the interwar era to the V-bombers of the 1950s and the supersonic strike aircraft of a period beyond that, Anthony Heward also flew a number of air raids over Germany during the Second World War. Yet, although he was a bomber man almost from the outset of his RAF career, he had to wait until 1943 to get on to operations with Bomber Command. Once he did, however, he won two DFCs during the course of 30 sorties to Berlin and other heavily defended cities, and commanded two Lancaster squadrons in succession.

In the postwar period he learnt to fly the Valiant, the first of the three V-bombers which made up Britain's nuclear strike force in the 1950s and 1960s. Thereafter he commanded a V-bomber station before going on to occupy senior posts in the RAF, including being head of maritime reconnaissance.

Anthony Wilkinson Heward was born in Brockley, Kent, and educated at Bexhill County School from where he joined the RAF in 1936. After training as a pilot he was posted to No 216 Squadron in Egypt where he flew Vickers Valentia biplane troop carriers. After this he was brought back to England to the first of his bomber posts, as adjutant of No 149 Squadron at Mildenhall. This was operating the Handley Page Heyford, even for its time a cumbersome machine with its fixed undercarriage, and capable of no more than 140mph. It was to be the last of the RAF's biplane heavy bombers.

When war broke out in September 1939, Heward was sent to France on the staff of the Air Component of the British Expeditionary Force, which consisted of Lysanders, Blenheims and Hurricanes, whose task was to carry out tactical and strategic reconnaissance and to defend British troops and bases. When the fury of the Blitzkrieg burst on the Western front in May 1940, breaking the French armies and sending the BEF reeling backwards to the coast, the Air Component put up what was inevitably a losing battle against the overwhelming strength of the Luftwaffe. When this was seen to be impossible its surviving aircraft and staff, including Heward, were evacuated to England.

But when, at the behest of Churchill, Bomber Command began its operations in earnest (Chamberlain, under pressure from a timorous French Government, had forbidden the RAF to bomb Germany lest it cause damage to private property and loss of civilian life — and reprisals) Heward, although desperately keen to get into action, found himself instructing instead. This, it is true, was a tribute to his flying skills but it was not particularly satisfying to himself. However, his services earned him the Air Force Cross in March 1942, after which he was sent to Turkey.

Unlike the First World War, in which Turkey had fought on the side of the Central Powers, the country had remained neutral and the Allies were anxious to keep it so, in the face of the Axis threat to the Middle East. Britain had already assisted in the building of airfields in Turkey and in 1941 had stationed some squadrons there, as well as providing technical assistance. Heward's job was to train Turkish pilots, ironically, on the German Heinkell III bomber of which the country's air force had a number. This was a psychologically valuable job from the strategic point of view. Germany had several times put pressure on Turkey to join the Axis, and the RAF presence was an important counterweight. But it irked Heward, who could see the war raging in other theatres all around him and wanted to join in.

In 1943 he had his wish and was posted to No 57 Squadron which was flying Lancasters. In the following year he was given command of No 50 Squadron, also operating Lancasters, and made a reputation for himself for his leadership in a series of raids on Berlin, Hanover and Frankfurt. For these he was awarded the DFC in April 1944. After that, with the air offensive against Germany rising to a climax, he was appointed to command No 97 Squadron and was awarded the Bar to his DFC in March 1945, by which time the RAF was ranging over German cities at will and with impunity.

Among his appointments after the war was command of the University of London Air Squadron, for which he supervised a recruiting drive. Thereafter he was closely involved with the establishment of Britain's V-bomber force through staff appointments and his command of the bomber station RAF Finningley.

He went on to become Chief of Staff of RAF Strike Command, 1970-72, and AOC of 18 Group, 1972-73. In the latter post he was responsible for maritime reconnaissance at a particularly chilly period of the Cold War. It was 18 Group's task to attempt to keep track of the Soviet submarine fleet in the North Atlantic, largely through the RAF's fleet of Nimrod long-range detection aircraft, aided by the older Avro Shackleton. 18 Group was also responsible for search and rescue operations around the coasts of Britain through its helicopter squadrons.

After his final appointment as Air Member for Supply and Organisation at the MoD he retired in 1976. He had been appointed OBE in 1952, CB in 1968 and advanced to KCB in 1976. Though he was widely respected both as an airman and leader, Anthony Heward was a man of austere character, whose mien made him a somewhat formidable and remote figure to his younger colleagues and subordinates.

In retirement he was a member of Wiltshire County Council, 1981-89, and was a keen fly fisherman.

He is survived by his wife Clare and by a daughter and a son.

ELSPETH DAVIE



Elspeth Davie, short story writer and novelist, died in Edinburgh on November 14 aged 77. She was born in Kilmarnock on March 20, 1918.

IN THE early 1950s two Edinburgh writers won in succession *The Observer*'s short story competition, and they neatly represent the two facets of "modernist" Scottish writing. The first was the dashing Muriel Spark, the second the almost Knoxian Elspeth Davie.

Undoubtedly the colourful Spark is rather more widely read than the monochrome Davie ever was; but the imbalance in their readership does an injustice to the precision, humour and compassion of the latter author who, along with Muriel Spark, could claim to be one of the most idiosyncratic and original Scottish prose writers since R. L. Stevenson.

A further parallel between Spark and Davie is provided by the fact that for many years Davie and her husband, the philosopher George Davie, author of *The Democratic Intellect: Scotland and Her Universities in the Nineteenth Century*, lived in a flat overlooking Bruntsfield Meadows, within view and sound of Jamie Gillespie's School where girls of slender means would toil under the tutelage of Miss Jean Brodie's successors. But that Elspeth Davie's first collection of stories should have been entitled *The Spark* was not necessarily by way of homage to her contemporary.

Born in rural Ayrshire, Elspeth Dryer (as she was before she married) went to school, university and art college in Edinburgh. She taught painting for several years, then lived in Ireland before returning with her husband and daughter to Edinburgh.

In all her writing there is an essential fastidious balance between intellect and eye. She writes as an artist — a painter with a literary brain.

Her first novel *Providings* (1965) is, wittily, about the way in which, in spite of themselves, inanimate objects come to influence and rule the lives of mere mortals who dwell among them.

In person a small, shy and desperately retiring woman — somehow suggesting a stern if sceptical mouse — she wrote less about the anxieties of the individual than of the ways in which which everyday life conspires against our best-laid plans and obsessions.

"The difficulty with the artist, and particularly the writer, is that much of his work has its roots in the unconscious," she wrote in a note which accompanies two of her stories in *Beyond the Words: Eleven Writers in Search of a New Fiction* (1975). "There is little to show apart from the finished product ... The writers who chiefly interest me are those who strike in at an angle to experience rather than going along parallel to it ... The desolating and the unfamiliar is happening continually between our getting up and our going to bed ... It is of this day-to-day business of living, its mysteriousness and its absurdity, that I would like to write."

These sentences describe precisely the effect of her writing on her readers. To suggest that she employed a fragmentary, Cubist approach might smack of pretentiousness; but there is something of Cubism in her work, the way in which she breaks down characters and situations to build them up and illuminate them, although this is always "human", never theoretical.

She published three novels after her first one, *Providings*. They were: *Creating a Scene* (1971), about the tribulations of an art teacher; *Climbers on a Stair* (1978), about tenement life; and the tough but rewarding *Coming to Light* (1989), an intellectual exploration and celebration of the enlightened Presbyterian character. All three were set in the Scottish capital.

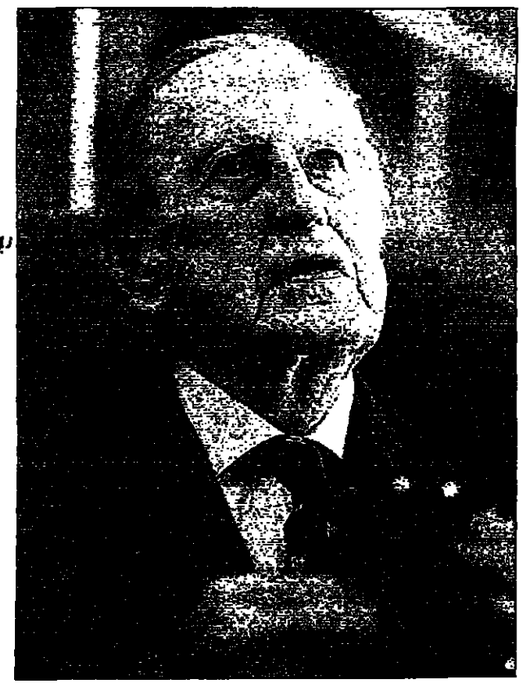
It was, though, as a short story writer that she achieved her finest effects. Her stories were collected in five books: *The Spark* (1969), *The High Tide Talker* (1976), *The Night of the Funny Hats* (1980), *A Traveller's Room* (1985) and *The Death of a Doctor* (1992). They received a number of Scottish Arts Council awards, and in 1978 she won the Katherine Mansfield Prize for short stories.

Her best single short story may be *Concerto*, about a commotion caused by a member of the audience during a concert and its effect on the rest of the listeners and indeed on the music. There is a subversive dry humour to it as the mundane endangers the sublime. (Robert Sharrock represents her by this story in the *Oxford Library of Classic English Short Stories*.) Her stories were published in literary magazines such as *Cornhill*, *London Magazine*, *London Review of Books* and *Transatlantic Review* as well as in Scottish periodicals and anthologies.

Elspeth Davie, mercifully, owes nothing to the kaleyard or to the Scottish "Renaissance", which may be why Maurice Lindsay omits her from his *History of Scottish Literature*. She always wrote in English, not in Scots, synthetic or otherwise. Her characters are the children of John Knox, weighed down by weariness and struggling to survive. The bleakness of Presbyterianism fills them with foreboding as the light and shade of Edinburgh, which she captures brilliantly, lifts them up. She was a Scottish writer of universality, unlike some of her contemporaries who always wrote for those of similar prejudices.

She is survived by her husband and daughter.

SIR JAMES DARLING



Sir James Darling, CMG, OBE, Headmaster of Geelong Grammar School, 1930-61, died in Melbourne, Australia, on November 1 aged 96. He was born in Tonbridge, Kent, on June 18, 1899.

GEELONG Grammar School, near Melbourne, was regarded by the egalitarian Australian people as the nearest thing they had to Eton. Founded in 1855, it was a fairly conservative establishment, but with a strong liberal and Christian-humanist tradition. It was, therefore, an unusual wind of fortune that brought James Darling, an Englishman, barely 30 and with strong left-wing leanings, to the post of Geelong's headmastership in 1930. He remained there for the next three decades, an outstanding leader of boys, having among his pupils such future celebrities as the writer Peter Carey, the Australian Prime Minister Sir John Gorton and, from the world of the media, Kerry Packer and Rupert Murdoch.

Despite Darling's many years in Australia, he remained the epitome of Englishness. He was a tall man, with an energetic, restless manner, and he would puff vigorously on his pipe when he was trying to solve a problem. But as an educationist there was nothing remotely stuffy about him. On the contrary, he was bursting with new ideas with which he bombarded his relatively conservative board of governors.

Among these were his determination to imbue his privileged charges with some sense of responsibility to the wider community. He encouraged his boys to work on schemes with local underprivileged families and the unemployed. But his most lasting memorial may well be Timbertop, which he established in 1953.

Timbertop was an outstation in the remote Australian outback, where boys spent a year of their senior school education, learning how to be self-reliant. Academic work was almost dropped during this year, in favour of skills such as tree-felling, sheep-shearing, panning for gold and cross-country expeditions. The Prince of Wales escaped there from his unhappy earlier years at Gordonstoun and left, after two terms, glowing with new-found confidence. He described his time at Timbertop to the Australian press as "the most wonderful period of my life".

The son of a preparatory school master, James Ralph Darling was himself the product of the Derbyshire public school, Repton. There he ran the debating society, edited the *Reptonian*, and came under the influence of a remarkable sixth-form master, Victor Gollancz (later the publisher). While he was at the school his two successive headmasters were William Temple and Geoffrey Fisher (both future Archbishops of Canterbury). Temple, in particular, became something of a mentor to Darling.

At the end of the First World War, Darling served in France with the Royal Field Artillery. Afterwards he went up to Oriel College, Oxford, to read history. He had by then decided to make his life in education, and he began his teaching career at Merchant Taylors', Crosby, and at Charterhouse. His first experience of Australia was leading a tour of English public schoolboys to the Antipodes. Temple and Fisher then persuaded him to apply for the headmastership of Geelong, when it fell vacant, in succession to Francis Brown.

Darling arrived at Geelong at the beginning of the Depression. He immediately adopted a positive approach to keeping the local workforce in employment. He embarked on a series of new buildings during the 1930s, among them music and art schools, and a new senior boarding house. During the war, he led the school in a spirit of cheerful determination. Boys took on domestic chores and maintenance work, and built or rebuilt whole buildings.

Afterwards Darling continued with his practice of adding "colonies" to Geelong, which had begun in the 1930s with a preparatory school, Bostock House. In 1947 there came another preparatory school named Glamorgan, in Melbourne, and in 1953 there followed Timbertop, in the foothills of the Australian Alps. The boys lived there in chalet-style units, for whose upkeep they were completely responsible. If they failed to gather enough wood, for example, they would simply freeze. Children of all kinds were thrown together in this environment. Prince Charles shared a room with a sheep farmer's son. Darling hoped that the experience would channel the boys' energies aright, at an age when what he termed "the poisonous passions of puberty" could so easily take hold.

Darling retired as headmaster in 1961. During his time there, he had seen Geelong grow from a school of 370, to an empire of several schools, and 1,139 boys.

Darling was appointed OBE in 1953, CMG in 1958 and knighted in 1968. After retirement he spent six years as chairman of the Australian Broadcasting Commission, a post which he began enthusiastically, but ended disillusioned by government interference. He spent his retirement, until he was 95, writing a weekly column for the *Melbourne Age*. He was also the author of several books, including *The Education of Civilised Man* (1962) and an autobiography, *Richly Rewarding* (1978).

He is survived by his wife, with whom he celebrated a diamond wedding anniversary in August, their three daughters and a son.

PERSONAL COLUMN

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL is compiling a record of Old Birkonians who lost their lives in World War II. Anyone having photographs or information is earnestly invited to contact the Archives Department, Birkenhead School, 59 Beresford Road, Birkenhead, L43 2JD, or by telephone on Meadgreen (0000 - 13000 on 0151 653 8656.

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JOAN. Margaret, Shirley. So sorry for the wreck I did over Aunt Maude's death, please forgive. Molly.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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ON THIS DAY

November 16, 1896

The first London to Brighton run celebrated the repeal of the Locomotive Act 1865 which required the carrying of a red flag in front of "steam carriages". The first car to arrive was a Bollée in 2 hours 30 minutes.

MEET OF THE MOTOR-CARS.

... While the cars were being brought up into position so far as circumstances admitted, Lord Winchilsea, who was a passenger on one of them, went into the Whitehall rooms to preside over a breakfast given by the Club, and before leaving the chair he excited the enthusiasm of the guests by rending asunder a red flag, one of which had, until Saturday, to be carried in advance of all locomotives travelling on the high road.

This act of symbolism having been performed, the company went out to see the start, which, despite the density of the crowd, took place at half-past 10 punctually. Mr. Harry Lawson leading the way in his phaeton and wearing the uniform which the Motor-Car Club has adopted—namely, a serge coat with gilt buttons, a peaked cap, and an armlet on which is embroidered the device emblematic of its purpose.

Immediately after him came one of the Panhard and Levassor cars which had been successful in the race from Paris to Marseilles and back; a Daimler phaeton; a private carriage, also of the Daimler type, which the Hon. Evelyn Ellis has already used on the high-road without waiting for a change of the law ...

From Brixton, teeming with sightseers, the cars proceeded at a somewhat improved pace through Streatham, Thornton-heath, Croydon and Purley to Reigate, several of them branching off at Albury and making direct for Brighton, without going, as had been arranged, into Reigate, while one or two had already met with mishaps which cut short their journey.

The scene all along the road was most remarkable, for not only were the spectators on foot and in carriages numerous beyond anticipation, but hundreds of cyclists formed a flying escort to the cars, and it would probably not be an exaggeration to say that at least ten thousand cyclists were on the roads between London and Brighton on Saturday ...

The motors and their drivers were much cheered all along the route from Preston-park and the people of Brighton evidently appreciated the compliments paid them in selecting their town for the first public trial of what is doubtless destined to become one of the most important branches of locomotion. The drivers, most of whom were passing the night at the Metropole, met with a very cordial reception from the many hundreds of visitors now staying in the hotel, and they were not sorry for a brief rest before the dinner which had been fixed to take place there at half-past 7. Mr. Lawson, to whose energy and tact, ably seconded as he was by Mr. Harrington Moore, is due much of the success that has attended this experimental trip, thinks that, all things considered, they have done wonderfully well: for it must be remembered that the drivers were inexperienced, seeing that, save two or three Frenchmen, none had ever been on a high-road before, and further there were several cars at the meet which, Mr. Lawson candidly admits, were very badly constructed and which he would never have passed if he had possessed powers to stop them ...

THE TIMES TODAY THURSDAY NOVEMBER 16 1995

NEWS

Major and Blair go for the jugular

■ John Major and Tony Blair traded insults and invective yesterday after the Government drew the battle lines for the general election with a legislative programme that heralded fierce political conflict on immigration, education and law and order.

MPs of all parties predicted a dirty run-in to the election after the leaders reached a new level of bitterness in exchanges over the Queen's speech **Pages 1, 2, 10, 11, 12, 20, 21**

Mawhinney pelted outside Commons

■ An inquiry began into why the police took 20 minutes to respond when Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Party chairman, was pelted with flour and paint by demonstrators on College Green, outside the House of Commons. The protest was against tighter immigration and asylum rules **Page 1**

Palace backlash

Buckingham Palace is considering withdrawing the small remaining support it gives to the Princess of Wales for her public duties because of her *Panorama* interview..... **Pages 1, 3, 20, 20**

Investor gesture

A Thai investor who went bankrupt playing the stock market wounded himself with a gun in the Bangkok stock exchange. "My blood will help clean the stock market," he said.... **Page 13**

The women's vote

Women in Britain have been consistently more likely to vote Conservative than men, certainly since polling began, and probably ever since they first got the vote, in 1918 **Page 2**

Pressure on Nigeria

President Mandela of South Africa set the agenda for pressing Nigeria towards democracy by urging Britain to support oil sanctions against the country's military regime..... **Pages 13, 21**

Black Baron jailed

A computer programmer who called himself the Black Baron was jailed after he admitted planting viruses that caused damage amounting to hundreds of thousands of pounds... **Page 6**

Meeting in space

The Atlantis space shuttle docked with the Mir station after less than an hour of manoeuvering, and the crews posed for pictures on board Mir about 245 miles above the Earth **Page 14**

Mayor on video

The Mayor of Barnsley was videoed by DSS investigators to check his claim for a disability allowance. A court heard that he was seen running **Page 8**

America deadlocked

America's government shutdown entered its second day with no resolution in sight and President Clinton seemingly winning the battle of public opinion .. **Page 15**

Tycoon buys village

Barry Houghton, a self-made millionaire, was revealed as the purchaser of the Cotswold village of Salperton, two months after the sale. He paid £8 million...**Page 9**

More Maastricht

Europe must resist the lure of 1930s-style nationalism and take a bold step forward to revamp the Maastricht treaty next year, Jacques Santer said..... **Page 16**

West jurors warned

Jurors in the Rosemary West trial were warned not to feel that an aquittal would mean the killings of ten young girls and women would go unpunished..... **Page 5**

French revolution

The French Government unveiled radical plans for reforming the debt-burdened welfare system, including a ceiling on social security spending..... **Page 17**

Police flag down New York cabbies

■ More than a tenth of New York's cabbies have not got driving licences, the police have discovered. This will not surprise visitors who have hurtled down Manhattan's avenues in the back of a yellow cab. The invariably ill-shaven drivers, who often do not speak English, have a mulish disregard for traffic regulations and lane discipline **Page 15**

BUSINESS

Economy: Market hopes of a British interest rate cut were raised by stagnating retail sales and a rise in the number of jobless..... **Page 25**

British Gas: Warm summer weather increased losses at British Gas in the third quarter. The company said it may seek government support over its loss-making contracts with gas producers **Page 25**

Euro Disney: The operator of the Disney theme park near Paris reported its first annual profit and record attendance after two years of big losses..... **Page 25**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index rose 23.5 points to close at 3571.4. Sterling's trade weighted index fell from 83.3 to 82.6 after a fall from $1.5645 to $1.5575 and from DM2.2122 to DM2.1863..... **Page 28**

SPORT

Cricket: Raymond Illingworth, the England manager, hedged his bets by announcing a party of 13 for the first Test against South Africa after finding that the pitch at Centurion Park had been watered on the eve of the match..... **Page 48**

Rugby union: Jack Rowell, the team manager, said that England would branch away from their traditional, sometimes laboured, style in the match against South Africa **Page 42**

Tennis: Pete Sampras beat Boris Becker 6-2, 7-6 at the ATP championship finals in Frankfurt. Becker likened his experience to being hit by a freight train **Page 46**

Rugby league: Barrie-Jon Mather, the England centre, has asked solicitors to try to free him from his contract with Wigan which runs until 1997 **Page 43**

Racing: Oliver Sherwood recorded his 500th National Hunt winner when he rode Myland to victory in the Nissan Fleet Novices' Chase at Kempton..... **Page 45**



The Queen leaving the Palace of Westminster wearing a silver fur-trimmed coat over a full-length white evening dress of heavy silk embroidered with pearl, crystal and cord, which was made as a robe of state for her Coronation in 1953.



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ POP ON FRIDAY
David Sinclair on Whitney Houston and other new albums; Caitlin Moran on Squeeze

■ EDUCATION
The short route to exam success — the half-GCSE

Paris uprising: A superb new film from France, *La Haine*, shows youth in revolt on the grim housing estates of outer Paris. Also released this week is the Keanu Reeves film, *A Walk in the Clouds* **Page 35**

Veterans return: With David Bowie and Morrissey filling Wembley Arena, and Human League on their first tour for eight years, it was a night for welcoming back pop's veteran heroes..... **Page 36**

Rigg's Mother: At the National, Diana Rigg dominates David Hare's adaptation of Brecht's *Mother Courage*..... **Page 37**

Boys in the Lake: A new staging of *Swan Lake* at Sadler's Wells takes an all-male view of Tchaikovsky's ballet classic **Page 37**

Valerie Grove: Glenys Kinnock observes her successor planning to carry on with her own work from No 10 — with an assurance that Glenys would never have been permitted. "Oh, absolutely. There is a complete generation difference between us in that way"..... **Page 19**

Traumatic tale: Since the eradication of polio, Guillain-Barré syndrome has become the most feared cause of paralysis in the Western world..... **Page 18**

Half the human race: Felipe Fernández-Armesto on the history of women, from the Dark Ages to the Enlightenment; Roger Scruton on what's wrong with post-modern politics; Nigella Lawson on being Jewish **Page 38**

Tale of two nations: Alistair Horne on Noel Annan's role in Occupied Germany; plus a life of Terence Rattigan and new fiction...**Page 39**

Major thrills: The Oscar-winning film *Jurassic Park* has sparked a war between two rival theme park attractions..... **Page 40**

One noble Congressman pledged to freeze his pay for the duration of the federal shutdown. That's a great idea — don't pay the President, his staff or any member of Congress when the Government screeches to a halt because of politics. Maybe have them kick into a pot to pay closure costs. Then see how long it takes to resolve these intractable disputes — *USA Today*

Preview: Two tax fraud inspectors take centre stage in a quirky comedy-drama by Tony Grounds, *The Ghostbusters of East Finchley* (BBC2, 9pm). **Review:** Matthew Bond welcomes a Paul Daniels show with less Paul..... **Page 47**

Duck and weave

The Government will dot and cross, clean and tidy, duck and weave and do little else of legislative substance from now until the next election..... **Page 21**

Inside Israel

Shimon Peres has ensured that the country's trauma does not paralyse its elected peacemakers **Page 21**

Wait and watch

The Princess of Wales has embarrassed her husband and captured the headlines..... **Page 21**

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

I look forward to reading in the gossip columns that "Sheikh Fitaihi, the world's number one diamond buyer" is staying at the Palace Hotel, Gstaad; The Carlyle, New York, or other similar coaching inns for travelling diamond buyers..... **Page 16**

LIBBY PURVES

The Princess of Wales has things to say, and a right to say them; the Prince, with his apparent agenda of slowly introducing Camilla Parker Bowles into his public circle, need not be left unchallenged..... **Page 16**

PETER RIDDELL

Labour is vulnerable, particularly among some of its recent converts, on issues such as law and order and parental choice **Page 16**

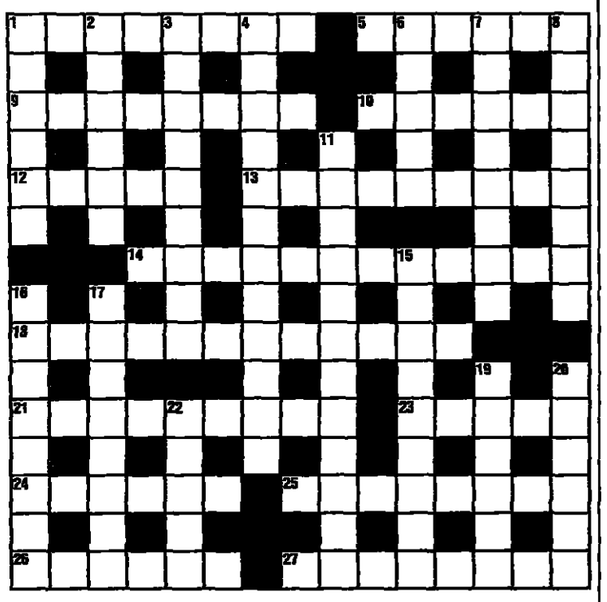
JOHN BRYANT

There is a gut feeling that people who do sport don't do crime, but for too long the sporting tradition in schools has been undermined as hundreds of them have sold off playing fields..... **Page 46**

Air Chief Marshal Sir Anthony Heward, former Air Member for Supply and Organisation, MoD; **Elspeth Davie**, writer; **Sir James Darling**, headmaster of Geelong Grammar School **Page 23**

World response to Nigeria; the Princess of Wales's interview on Panorama..... **Page 21**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,014



ACROSS

1 Seafaring fellow embraced by girl (8).
5 A fine concern to make a declaration (6).
9 Taking liberties and striking (8).
10 Shot at bird observed by daughter (6).
12 Woollen material a shopping area sent back (5).
13 He helps keep people's spirits up (9).
14 Leave hurriedly to attend a military entertainment (4,1,7).
18 City person foolishly involving church in brilliant display (12).
21 Officer keeping gold in chest of drawers (9).
23 Like theatrical husband or possibly beau (5).
24 Boldly confront monster crossing river (6).
25 Sorry to have to lock away one vintage wine (8).
26 A partiality for spicy stuff (6).
27 Criterion for a popular song (8).

DOWN

1 One's outwardly brave, for the most part (6).
2 Soldier changes process of annulment (6).
3 The will to install new mates in temporary accommodation (9).
4 Means of discovering hidden charges (4-8).
6 It's enjoyable serving American mushrooms (5).
7 Forced to use old measure in bar out East (8).
8 Tory wet's way to assess for taxation? (8).
11 Alienation of peculiar beings in SF film (12).
15 Military coordinator's course of action an artist reported (9).
16 Room over pub for typists needing a break (5-3).
17 Parliamentarian's argument keeps mob leader in dungeon (8).
19 Gymnastics group wanting a change in Spain (6).
20 Roofs often are criticised like this (6).
22 Nothing is as sheltered as this haven (5).

Times Two Crossword, page 48

Solution to Puzzle No 20,013

D	I	C	T	A	T	O	R	C	O	R	P	U	S	
E	R	N	G	N	R	L	I							
P	R	O	M	E	T	H	E	U	S	B	O	U	N	D
I	W	M	A	I	I	S	E							
C	O	N	F	O	R	M		S	A	T	C	H	E	L
T	L	N			A	A					O			
	V	A	L	E	R	I	A	N		L	E	M	O	N
W	N			N	C			A	G					
A	U	D	I	T		S	E	E	T	H	I	N	G	
T		O	A			A	H	P						
C	R	A	M	P	O	N		F	O	R	B	A	D	E
H	I	M	I	R	P	N	A							
D	E	S	C	A	N	T	R	E	C	O	R	D	E	R
O	L	S	Y	S	O	L								
G	H	E	T	T	O		C	H	A	N	C	E	R	Y

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code:

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Glouc,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Hereffds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code:

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Saunton Sands, Devon, and Guernsey, 15C (59F); lowest day max: Aviemore, Highland, 3C (37F); highest rainfall: Edinburgh, 2.01in; highest sunshine: Exmouth, Devon, 8.6hr.

FORECAST

☐ **General:** Wales, southern and central England will start mild with bright spells and showers. Dull, wet weather will move southeast during the day, accompanied by a sharp drop in temperature. Northern England will be cold, with a few more hours of rain, but it should turn brighter and drier later.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will be cold with bright spells. Southwest Scotland will become quite sunny, but many other areas will have showers, often wintry.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, Channel Isles:** bright, mild and showery at first; dull, cold and wet later. Wind southwesterly, later northwesterly, mostly moderate. *Max 12C (54F).*

☐ **E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, SW England, S Wales, Central N England:** soon becoming cold and wet; turning drier in evening. Wind will soon turn northerly, fresh. Max 10C (50F) in morning.

☐ **N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man:** rain clearing to brighter skies and a few showers in afternoon. Wind northerly, fresh. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** cold and showery; some hail and snow; brighter at times. Wind mainly northerly, fresh. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland:** bright or sunny; a few showers. Wind northerly, moderate. *Max 7C (45F).*

☐ **Outlook:** wintry showers in north and east at first, otherwise fine and cold with night frost.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

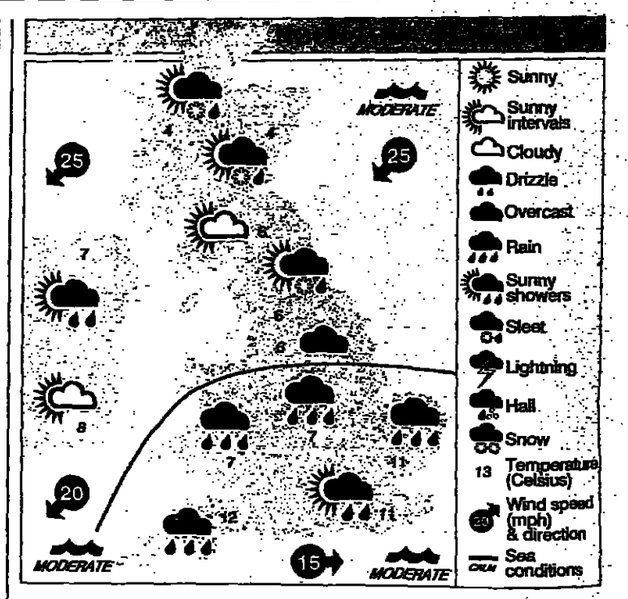
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; du=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	C	Max F	
Aberdeen	-	0.33	5	41	r	London	4.5	0.06	15	59	b
Anglesey	0.2	0.77	13	55	sh	Lowestoft	3.0	0.16	13	55	c
Aspatria	0.2	0.48	12	54	r	Manchester	3.6	0.06	13	55	b
Aviemore	-	0.44	3	37	sl	Margate	1.6	0.17	12	54	r
Belfast	-	1.05	10	50	r	Minehead	5.7	0.02	15	59	s
Birmingham	3.8	0.07	13	55	b	Morecambe	2.0	0.28	13	55	r
Bognor R	4.5	0.06	14	57	b	Newcastle	0.3	0.43	11	52	r
Bournem'th	3.9	0.29	15	59	sh	Newquay	3.8	0.07	14	57	d
Bristol	6.3	-	14	57	s	Norwich	5.2	0.09	14	57	s
Buxton	2.0	0.15	11	52	s	Nottingham	X				
Cardiff	4.1	0.04	13	55	sh	Oxford	5.6	-	14	57	s
Clacton	2.9	0.02	12	54	c	Penzance	5.8	0.11	15	59	sh
Colwyn Bay	0.1	0.47	13	55	r	Plymouth	X				
Cromer	4.8	0.11	13	55	b	Poole	3.2	0.22	15	59	s
Dunbar	X					Prestatyn	X	0.35	12	54	r
Eastbourne	4.2	0.22	15	59	sh	Ross-o-wye	3.8	0.13	14	57	sh
Edinburgh	-	2.01	9	48	r	Ryde	X				
Eskdalemuir	-	0.84	8	46	r	Salcombe	X				
Exmouth	6.6	0.02	14	57	s	Sandown	3.7	0.16	14	57	sh
Falmouth	X					Saunton Snd	5.5	0.06	15	59	s
Fishguard	1.7	0.17	12	54	sh	Scarboro'	0.1	0.17	11	52	c
Folkestone	2.2	0.41	13	55	r	Shanklin	X				
Glasgow	-	0.07	7	45	r	Shrewsbury	1.3	0.07	12	54	c
Guernsey	4.5	0.01	15	59	s	Skegness	3.8	0.10	13	55	s
Hastings	4.1	0.82	14	57	r	Southend	0.5	0.10	13	56	sh
Hayling I.	2.9	0.32	14	57	sh	Southport	X				
Herne Bay	2.2	0.20	14	57	sh	Southsea	2.7	0.28	14	57	sh
Hove	3.6	0.28	14	57	t	St. Ives	X				
Hunstanton	3.7	0.05	13	55	b	Stornoway	-	0.36	7	45	h
Ilfracombe	X					Swanage	X				
Isle of Man	-	1.10	12	54	r	Teignmouth	6.1	0.02	14	57	s
Jersey	3.1	0.02	15	59	sh	Tenby	1.7	0.04	14	57	sh
Kinloss	-	0.51	6	43	h	Tiree	-	0.17	7	45	c
Leeds	2.7	0.17	14	57	b	Torquay	4.2	0.21	14	57	b
Lerwick	0.9	0.02	5	41	h	Tynemouth	-	0.32	11	52	du
Lauchars	-	1.02	8	46	r	Ventnor	4.0	0.08	15	59	sh
Littlehmptn	X					West-s-mare	X				
Liverpool	1.0	0.14	12	54	r	Weymouth	3.2	0.19	14	57	sh

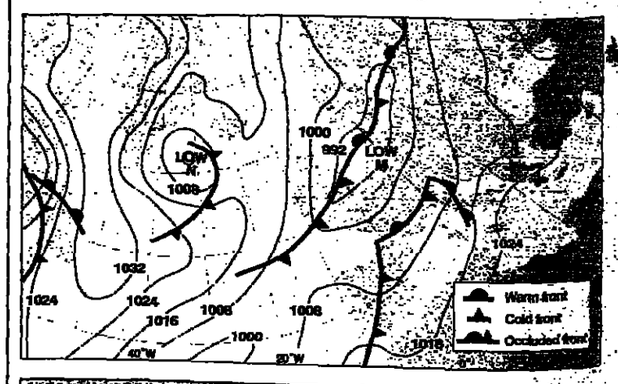
ABROAD

Ajaccio	15	59	f	Corfu	16	61	r	Majorca	21	70	s
Alicatrl	22	72	s	C'phagn	7	45	r	Malaga	18	64	f
Alex'dria	24	75	s	Dublin	10	50	c	Malta	20	68	s
Algiers	21	70	s	Dubrovnik	17	63	s	Melb'rne	15	59	c
Amst'dm	11	52	c	Faro	20	68	f	Mexico C	19	66	s
Athens	20	68	f	Florence	17	63	c	Miami	23	73	s
B Aires	25	77	f	Frankfurt	9	48	f	Milan	11	52	f
Bahrain	27	81	s	Funchal	22	72	c	Montreal	2	36	-
Bangkok	31	88	s	Geneva	11	52	f	Moscow	1	34	c
Barbados	29	84	f	Gibraltar	18	64	s	Munich	11	52	f
Barcelona	20	68	s	Helsinki	3	37	r	N Delhi	25	77	s
Beirut	21	70	s	Hong K	20	68	s	N York	8	46	r
Belgrade	8	46	f	Innsbruk	10	50	f	Nairobi	19	66	s
Berlin	9	48	f	Istanbul	18	64	f	Naples	X		
Bermuda	24	75	f	Jeddah	33	91	s	Nice	17	63	s
Biarritz	19	66	s	Jo'burg	26	79	s	Oslo	3	37	f
Borda'x	15	59	f	L Angels	18	64	c	Paris	11	52	c
Brussels	11	52	c	L Palmas	23	73	s	Peking	13	55	s
Budapst	9	48	c	Le Touet	11	52	f	Perth	23	73	s
Cairo	25	77	s	Lisbon	19	66	c	Prague	10	50	f
Cape Tn	27	81	s	Locarno	11	52	f	Reykjavik	-4	25	s
Ch'church	16	61	-	Luxembg	7	45	r	Rhodes	19	66	f
Chicago	1	34	f	Luxor	28	82	s	Rio de J	25	77	s
Cologne	9	48	r	Madrid	14	57	f	Riyadh	27	81	s
								Roma	18	64	s
								S Fr'isco	16	61	s
								S Paulo	23	73	s
								Salzburg	11	52	s
								Santiago	19	66	s
								Seoul	10	50	s
								Sing'por	29	84	f
								St'kholm	2	36	c
								Strasb'rg	9	48	f
								Sydney	26	79	f
								Tangier	20	68	s
								Tel Aviv	27	81	s
								Tenerife	23	73	f
								Tokyo	12	54	s
								Toronto	1	34	r
								Tunis	21	70	f
								Valencia	19	66	f
								Vanc'ver	13	55	c
								Venice	15	59	s
								Vienna	7	45	c
								Warsaw	6	43	c
								Wash'ton	4	39	r
								Wel'ngton	15	59	f
								Zurich	10	50	f

Temperatures at midday local time X = not available



Changes to the chart below from noon: low M will move northeast and deepen slightly; low N will drift south, filling later



HIGH TIDE

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	6:46	5.96	7:36	5.93	Leith	8:30	4.48	8:51	4.49
Aberdeen	7:18	3.42	7:36	3.52	Liverpool	4:48	7.20	5:08	7.30
Avonmouth	–	–	0:18	9.88	Lowestoft	2:41	2.25	4:22	2.16
Ballast	4:50	2.81	5:10	3.09	Margate	5:26	3.98	5:29	3.93
Cardiff	–	–	0:02	9.37	Milford Haven	–	–	0:02	5.31
Devonport	11:09	4.48	11:52	4.28	Newquay	11:17	5.01	–	–
Dover	4:41	5.35	5:11	5.16	Oban	11:36	3.13	–	–
Dublin	6:04	3.27	6:25	3.41	Penzance	10:33	4.34	11:00	4.20
Falmouth	11:06	4.05	11:55	3.83	Portland	11:21	1.51	–	–
Glasgow	6:19	3.65	6:32	4.14	Portsmouth	4:53	3.98	5:05	3.81
Harwich	4:45	3.33	5:03	3.30	Shoreham	4:48	4.82	5:23	4.67
Holyhead	4:18	4.38	4:39	4.53	Southampton	4:31	3.88	4:52	3.74
Hull	–	–	0:13	5.59	Swansea	–	–	0:10	7.20
Ilfracombe	11.41	7.00	–	–	Tees	9:47	4.16	10:07	4.33
King's Lynn	–	–	0:20	4.66	W'ton-on-Nze	4:51	3.54	5:09	3.48

Crown copyright reserved. All tide times are GMT

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 7.19 am
Sun sets: 4.11 pm
Moon sets 1.12 pm
Moon rises -

London 4.11 pm to 7.21 am
Bristol 4.21 pm to 7.31 am
Edinburgh 4.04 pm to 7.32 am
Manchester 4.11 pm to 7.37 am
Penzance 4.37 pm to 7.38 am

New Moon November 22

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صكنا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل



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Investors should forget about 'political risk'



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Eyewitness tales from war and peace



TRAVEL 40, 41

Wild attractions of the World Travel Market

GEOFF BROWN ON THIS WEEK'S FILMS

Arts 35-37

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook — THURSDAY NOVEMBER 16 1995

'Wiped out' investor wins £75,000 payout



Thornton: court blow

BY JON ASHWORTH

A SMALL investor who was "wiped out" by LHW Futures, the controversial commodities dealer, yesterday won a ten-year battle to recoup his losses. Michael Haley was awarded nearly £75,000 plus costs by the High Court, which ruled that he had been the victim of negligent advice.

The ruling came as a blow to Clive Thornton, the one-time Abbey National chief executive and later chairman of Mirror Group Newspapers, who took control of LHW in 1989. The company was renamed Burgon Hall, and withdrew from futures and options trading after failing to win regulatory approval. Mr Thornton, who was in court for the judgment, said that he was awaiting advice on whether to appeal. Mr Justice Wadsworth said Mr Haley had been dragged in "too deep and too soon" after responding to an advertisement in the mid-1980s. He invested an initial £2,600 in Swiss francs and was persuaded to part with a further £23,400 — sold to him as a "jump-in-quick, once in a lifetime, chance".

Mr Haley was earmarked as a "big player" and introduced to Stephen Morris, a senior account executive specialising in currencies. He recommended an investment of £150,000 — described by the judge as "a very big proposition for a newcomer who had only dealt twice on the market before". Mr Haley eventually put up £10,000, and was soon borrowing to raise funds.

The deal went "spectacularly wrong", and Mr Haley was urged to invest more money as his margin was eroded. LHW sent a courier bike to his home in Guildford, Surrey, to wait while he signed the cheque. Three days later, Mr Haley was "wiped out". Of a total investment of about £54,000, he recouped just £2,231.62.

The judge awarded Mr Haley £49,168. A further award for £25,763 was made against Mr Morris. Interest was awarded at base plus 1 per cent, potentially swelling the size of the award to £165,000. Mr Haley said: "We've won, but it is a pyrrhic victory. They got me into a highly speculative business that I didn't appreciate, and took 40-50 per cent in commission." He had to sell his home and now lives in a one-bed flat in Midhurst, West Sussex, supported by family and friends.

Dozens of investors lost thousands of pounds to LHW, which was notorious for "churning and burning" — investing and reinvesting clients' capital until high commission charges exhausted the funds. Its co-founders, John Hughes and Jeremy Walsh, earned dividends of £19 million from LHW over a two-year period. They disposed of their interests in the firm in 1988.

Lloyd's loses its chief executive

BY JON ASHWORTH

PETER MIDDLETON yesterday abruptly resigned his £250,000-a-year post as chief executive of Lloyd's of London, casting the troubled insurance market into fresh uncertainty.

Mr Middleton announced his resignation last night after accepting a top job with Salomon Brothers, the American investment bank. He formally departs at the end of the week. Ron Sandler, director of special projects at Lloyd's since March, is to be his successor.

The manner of Mr Middleton's departure sends a worrying signal to the insurance community. He was the architect of ambitious plans to restructure the Lloyd's market, and led negotiations with the various Lloyd's action groups. His exit at such a critical stage will cause widespread dismay.

Michael Deeny, chairman of the Gooda-Walker Action Group, said that Mr Middleton's resignation was a blow to negotiations about Lloyd's £2.8 billion settlement offer to names. Mr Deeny, who was due to meet Mr Middleton tomorrow to carry on the negotiations, said: "It is a real loss to Lloyd's. I think it has to cause concern.

"Names felt Peter Middleton, because he came from outside the market, had a real concern for the position not shared by some other members of Lloyd's. It is obviously unfortunate when a key player to negotiations resigns."

Mr Middleton's exit is the latest and most damaging in a series of top-level departures. Rosalind Gilmore resigned in September after less than a year as head of regulation.

Mr Middleton, 55, joined Lloyd's in September 1992 after five years as chief executive of Thomas Cook. The former monk has received much of the flak from names over the disastrous losses at Lloyd's. He is to be head of European operations for Salomon Brothers.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3571.4	(+23.5)
Yield	4.0%	
FT-SE A All share	1751.46	(+9.91)
Nikkei	17682.74	(–119.77)
New York:		
Dow Jones	4881.93	(+10.12)*
S&P Composite	590.11	(+0.82)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 5/16%*	(5 11/16%)
Long Bond	107 22/32*	(107 13/32)
Yield	6.29%*	(6.29%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6¼%	(6⅝%)
Liffe long gilt future (Dec)	107 21/32	(107 13/16)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.5580*	(1.5599)
London:		
$	1.5585	(1.5589)
DM	2.1677	(2.2045)
FFr	7.5540	(7.6025)
SFr	1.7700	(1.7776)
Yen	157.29	(158.54)
£ Index	82.6	(83.3)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.4023*	(1.4135)
FFr	4.8435*	(4.8810)
SFr	1.1343*	(1.1415)
Yen	100.92*	(101.65)
$ Index	92.8	(93.1)

Tokyo close Yen 100.95

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jan)	$16.45	($16.35)

GOLD

London close	$386.05	($385.95)

* denotes midday trading price

Dutch sale

Unigate, the dairy group, plans to sell its 29 per cent stake in Nutricia, the Dutch specialist food company. Sales proceeds of £329 million are expected. Unigate also plans to sell its American restaurants business.

Report 27, Tempus 28

French boost

Commercial Union, Britain's largest composite insurer reported a huge increase during the third quarter in life insurance premiums from France after the takeover of Group Victoire, the French insurer. However, CU said that the industry remained extremely competitive, especially in Britain.

Page 30

Sterling is hit by gloomy figures

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

STERLING slumped near to record lows yesterday as another batch of alarmingly weak economic data fuelled a bandwagon in favour of lower interest rates.

The beleaguered state of Britain's high streets was again in evidence, with a 0.1 per cent fall in retail sales in October. This means there was been virtually no growth in sales volumes for a year.

This news was coupled with a rise of 200 in seasonally adjusted unemployment in October, the first increase since August 1993. It took the number of people out of work and claiming benefit to a seasonally adjusted 2,265,500. Unadjusted unemployment was down by 79,000.

The seasonally adjusted rise was statistically insignificant and, like the small rise initially published in July's data, may well be revised to show another fall. However, the headline figure served to underline how the economic slowdown is showing up in a slackening labour market.

The jobs and sales news together have now convinced many in the City that an interest rate cut is on the way. However, euphoria has not yet set in because the financial markets are waiting to see what the Budget has in store in less than two weeks' time. The path of rates will, to some extent, depend on how fiscally imprudent the Chancellor is deemed to have been.

The minutes of the September 29 monthly monetary meeting, published yesterday, showed that Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, was still recommending a wait-and-see policy on interest rates, saying that he was still not persuaded that the inflation target would be met in two years' time without an additional tightening of policy.

The Chancellor was much more doveish on inflation, suggesting that he will be inclined to cut interest rates in coming months if growth continues to falter and inflation stays low. He said that the slowdown had increased the probability that the inflation target would be met and said that he was not unduly concerned by a pick-up in recorded inflation in August.

Since that monetary meeting, most economic indicators have been decidedly weak, which is likely to reinforce the Chancellor's optimism.

The foreign exchange market showed a fairly dramatic reaction to talk of lower rates, however. The pound's trade-weighted index fell sharply to end the day at 82.5, from 83.3 on Tuesday night. The pound was quoted at DM2.1863, only one pfennig from its record low against the mark of 2.1755. Gilts and short sterling futures rallied as the likelihood of an interest rate cut strengthened.

The arguments for a rate cut were underlined by figures showing that average earnings growth remains subdued, at 3.25 per cent in September, weaker than a year ago.

Michael Saunders, economist with Salomon Brothers, noted that, although retail price figures today may show a rise in October, yesterday's sales data suggests that shops will soon be forced into discounting to lift volumes.

Dismissive response, page 26
Pennington, page 27
Economic View, page 29

JAMES MORGAN



Philippe Bourguignon, above, can afford a smile on the Euro Disney rollercoaster ride to profit (Jon Ashworth writes).

The chairman of the French theme park operator, pictured sampling Space Mountain, its latest attraction, reported the group's first full-year profit since the park opened more than three years ago.

Rising attendance and hotel occupancy led the group to register a pre-tax profit of Fr114 million in the year to September 30, compared with a Fr1.8 billion loss last time. The City was unimpressed, and the shares fell 21p to 194p. A failure to make a profit would have been embarrassing to Euro Disney, given the generous concessions granted in the Fr13 billion financial restructuring announced in March 1994.

Then, Walt Disney, the majority shareholder, extended credit, as well as waiving royalties on entrance fees, food and merchandise, and suspending management fees — both for five years. Bankers agreed to an 18-month moratorium on interest payments.

Euro Disney rides into black on debt holiday

Pennington, page 27

Tarmac and Wimpey agree to swap assets

BY CARL MORTISHED

TARMAC and Wimpey have kick-started the consolidation of the construction industry with an asset swap that will make Wimpey the world's largest private housebuilder and dramatically increase Tarmac's share of the aggregates market in the UK.

Shares in both companies leapt on the announcement that Wimpey would take over Tarmac's housing division at asset value. In exchange, Tarmac will buy Wimpey's construction division and mineral business. Wimpey rose 15p, to 127p, and Tarmac 9p, to 92½p.

The deal is expected to price the Tarmac housing division at a net asset value of £320 million at the end of the year, while placing an equal value on the minerals business of Wimpey. The construction business of Wimpey is being sold at nil value, including its year-end cash balances. The agreement in principle to the asset transfer, expected to be completed early next year, is subject to a valuation of work in progress and the cash balances of Wimpey construction, £88 million in June.

The agreement was described by both companies as "a win-win situation" and Joe Dwyer, chief executive of Wimpey predicted that the move would trigger further consolidation in the UK construction industry. "I would say that a lot of discussions are going on in boardrooms today."

Tarmac put its housebuilding business up for sale with the announcement of a change of strategy last August. Neville Simms, group chief executive of Tarmac, said that the exchange would reinforce Tarmac's position in aggregates and create a world-class contracting organisation. He said that before one-off costs for reorganisation, there would be no dilution of earnings next year.

Wimpey blamed the problems of funding for its decision to shed contracting and minerals. The deal would give Wimpey sales of some 14,000 houses per year, with further gains in time. However, it gave warning that market conditions would mean lower profits from housing this financial year.



Simms: world-class

Pennington, page 27
Tempus, page 28

Gas calls for State cash aid

BRITISH GAS has called for government cash to stem the increasing cost of take-or-pay contracts (Christine Buckley writes).

Yesterday, after making a provision of £83 million this year for the shortfall between what it had agreed to pay for gas and the selling price of what is used, British Gas revealed that it had pressed the Government for financial support. Its favoured way is for the scrapping of the levy on gas from the North Sea which costs the company about £170 million.

Roy Gardner, finance director, said: "We are going to be most insistant that the Government helps us." A Department of Trade and Industry spokeswoman said: "We are monitoring the situation over the take-or-pay contracts, but cannot intervene before British Gas has spoken to all the suppliers concerned."

British Gas nine-month pre-tax profits slumped 27 per cent to £422 million, with market share down from 55 per cent to 35 per cent. Warm weather was likely to take a further £120 million toll.

Tempus, page 28

Judge rejects writ against Guinness

BY MELVYN MARCKUS
CITY EDITOR

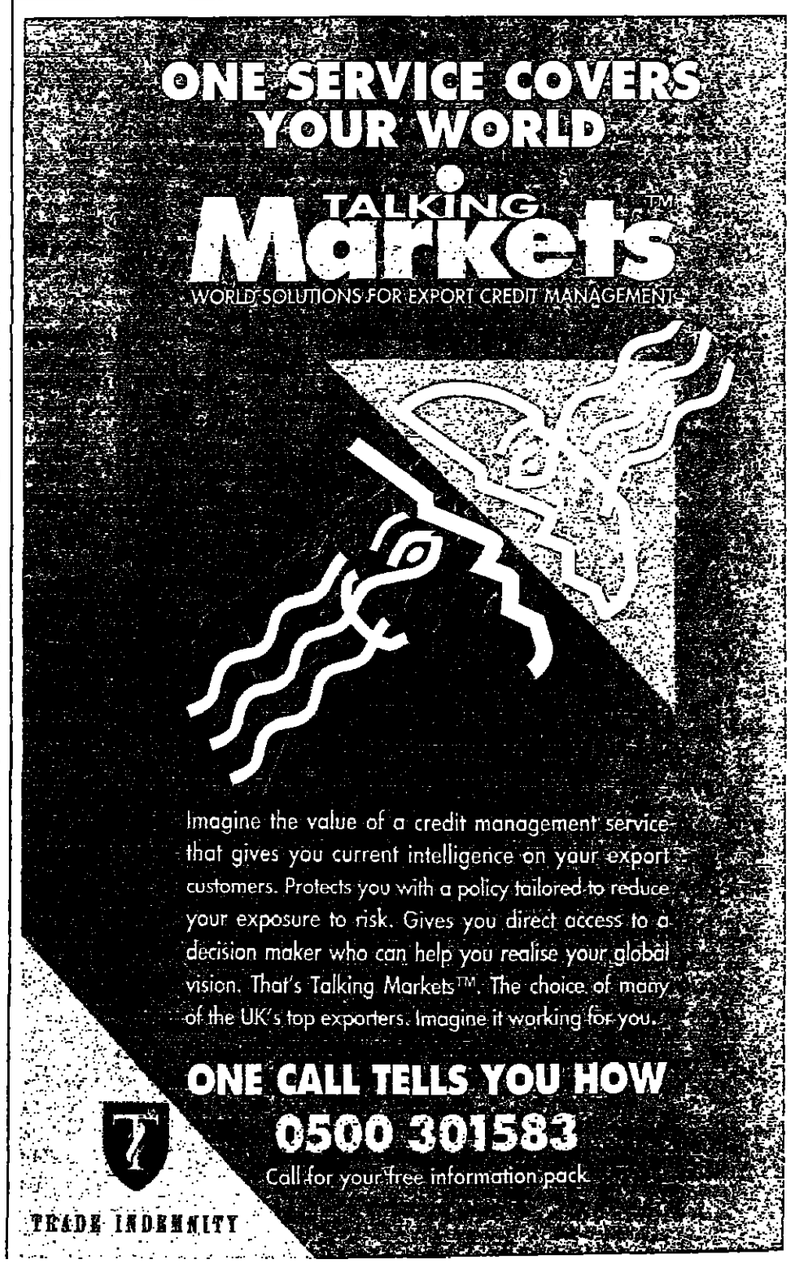
AN $85 million writ issued by Thomas Ward, the US attorney, against Guinness and three individuals associated with the company, has bitten the Californian dust.

Judge Aviva Bobb, who presided over a hearing in the Los Angeles Superior Court, has struck out Mr Ward's claims. Judge Bobb dismissed Mr Ward's lawsuit on the grounds that the former adviser to Guinness had failed to show that the California state courts enjoyed jurisdiction over Guinness and other parties named in the writ.

The writ, launched in the spring of last year, alleged that Guinness had been involved in a conspiracy with the DTI and the UK Government to discredit and oust Mr Ward. Ernest Saunders, the company's former chairman and chief executive, and other managers involved in the £2.7 billion takeover of Distillers in 1986. Enjoined with Guinness was Shaun Dowling, a former director. The writ also cited Sir Thomas Risk, the former Governor of the Bank of Scotland, and Lord Macfarlane of Bearsden, who initially took over as chairman after Mr Saunders resigned.

Some 20 claims against Guinness included allegations that the company had breached the Racketeering, Influenced and Corrupt Organisations Act. Mr Ward also claimed damages for wrongful termination, loss of income, fraud, libel and malicious prosecution.

David Loomis, Mr Ward's attorney, told *The Times* yesterday that he did not rule out ongoing legal action by his client. Mr Loomis pointed out that Mr Ward could appeal against the ruling or might look to another jurisdiction outside California. Mr Loomis described Judge Bobb's ruling as disappointing, but emphasised that it meant very little in terms of Mr Ward's ability to proceed with his case.



British efficiency gap is reduced

BY JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN has closed three-quarters of the productivity gap in manufacturing against Germany and France that existed in 1979, according to an article published by the National Institute of Economic and Social Research.

The report, by Walter Eltis and David Higham of Exeter College, Oxford, and the Department of Trade and Industry also concludes that Britain has slightly narrowed the productivity gap with Japan, although it remains large.

The authors note that, although the underlying performance of the British economy improved during the 1980s, productivity in both manufacturing and services still lags behind that of leading western European economies and that closing the remaining gap will take more improvements.

The report attributes the improvement in Britain's competitive position — not taking account of exchange-rate movements — to four major developments since the Conservatives took office in 1979: privatisation, substantial inward investment, an economy-wide shift in favour of smaller businesses and greater labour market efficiency.

In the 1960s and 1970s, many nationalised industries used resources inefficiently, but many privatised utilities had significantly raised productivity, the report says.

The authors say that the rise in importance of services, new technology, deregulation and lower corporation and income tax have all helped the creation of small firms.

Reforms outlawing secondary strike action and increasing trade union democracy have led to the virtual disappearance of demarcation disputes and industrial action, the authors say.

JAMES MORGAN



Top man: Sir Chips Keswick yesterday after the annoucement that he has become Hambros group chief executive

Government dismisses rise in jobless total

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government yesterday dismissed as insignificant the first increase in unemployment for two years as the number of people out of work and claiming benefit rose by 200.

Whitehall regards the rise, which was wholly against expectations, as largely meaningless and likely to be revised by new figures next month.

The halt in the steady fall in claimant unemployment came when the provisional seasonally-adjusted jobless total for October increased by 200 to 2,265,500, or 8.1 per cent of the workforce. Unadjusted unemployment — the actual number of people out of work and claiming benefit — fell in October by 79,845 to 2,212,336. But Whitehall officials believe the entire drop was related to seasonal factors, leading the Government's seasonal-adjustment computer programme to remove the fall and leave it as an increase of 200.

Statisticians said three seasonal factors — graduates getting jobs, graduates who had hoped for jobs deciding to return to further education, and people being taken on by public sector bodies at the start of the academic year — had an impact on the figures.

They believe that such factors render the adjusted figures largely "meaningless", and that there is therefore a "very strong possibility" that they will be revised next month, as was the last rise in July, when provisional figures then showed an increase of 1,700 that was subsequently revised to become a fall of 200. Whitehall saw nothing to alter its belief that the general trend in unemployment remains downward, at roughly 10,00 to 15,000 a month.

Eric Forth, Education and Employment Minister, said the provisional increase should not be seen as significant. But Michael Meacher, Labour's employment spokesman, said that the figures marked the "final collapse of the Government's shuddering economic recovery".

Precise figures showed that the number of men leaving the claimant count fell by 2,500, but a rise of 2,700 in the total for women led to the first rise in seasonally-adjusted unemployment figures since August 1993, when the total rose by 100.

The Government also said the number of people out of work for longer than a year fell by 36,600 in the three months to October to 825,700, almost 200,000 lower than two years ago. The number looking for a job for longer than six months fell by 74,700 in the same three months to 1,227,600.

Inventor may scrap brainchild

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

THE controversial price control. RPI-X, may be abandoned as a method of governing the National Grid by the formula's inventor, Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator.

His potential U-turn on the pricing formula geared to the rate of inflation comes just a week before the Grid issues its prospectus for flotation and less than a month before the shares are traded.

Professor Littlechild has begun a review of the price controls exercised on the Grid, which until flotation is owned by the 12 regional electricity companies (Recs) or the groups, which have now bought several of those companies. Yesterday, he called for comments on the price control applied to the Grid when the present structure expires in April 1997.

The Grid's prices are currently constrained by the formula RPI-3.

Hambros returns to merchant banking

BY PATRICIA TEHAN
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

HAMBROS has undergone a big management shakeup and restructured its busi-ness to return to its merchant bank roots after plunging into a first-half loss.

The new top team is headed by Sir Chips Keswick, deputy chairman, who has become group chief executive — a new role — and non-executive chairman of Hambros Bank, its core merchant bank. Lord Hambro will stay chairman.

Christopher Sporborg, deputy chairman of Hambros Bank, has been sidelined. He is to manage Hambro Countrywide and Hambro Insurance Services, the group's listed investments.

Michael Sorkin, Hambros' leading corporate financier, becomes deputy chairman of Hambros Bank and chairman of its group investments. Charles Perrin, formerly head of overseas marketing, becomes chief executive of Hambros Bank. Gruppo Bancario San Paolo, the Italian commercial bank and Hambros' largest shareholder, is to buy a further 5 per cent of the shares, taking its stake to 19.12 per cent. Mr Sorkin said that it was not a defensive move.

Hambros' banking arm will cut straight lending to corporate clients, which, said Mr Sorkin, will see a fall of up to 30 per cent in its £1.3 billion loan book. He said it is planning to raise the size of its equity funds under management from £5 billion through acquisition or joint venture.

Hambros made a pre-tax loss of £7.7 million for the six months to September 30 against profits of £21.5 million in the same period last year. The interim dividend is cut to 2.5p, from 4.5p, due on December 21, but the total will be held at 7.5p. The loss was due to a leap in bad debt provisions from £7.3 million to £23.5 million and £8.8 million exceptional costs.

☐ The Norwich and Peterborough Building Society is buying the Hambros Bank mortgage book with its £110 million in loans for an undisclosed sum. But recent prices fetched in the increasingly competitive market for mortgage books suggests it will have been at least £114 million.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Bidders line up for rail franchises

BIDDING for the third wave of British Rail franchises got under way when 16 private-sector companies registered an interest in running the services. The auction of the latest franchises, South East and Chiltern, both in southern England, means that 48 per cent of British Rail passenger services are now on the market. The 16 companies include many that are already involved in bidding for the first two tranches of franchises.

South East has a turnover of £215 million and operates some of Britain's oldest rolling stock. Chiltern, which has a big investment programme turnover of about £22 million. Invitations to tender are expected to be issued by the end of the year, with the franchises sold late next year.

Water dividend up

ESSEX & SUFFOLK Water has raised its interim dividend by 7.4 per cent to 43.4p per A or B share out of earnings of 122p (up from 119p). The water-supply company, which is owned by Lyonnaise des Eaux, the French company also in talks to buy Northumbrian Water, raised pre-tax profit by 3.9 per cent to £15.9 million in the six months to end-September on turnover 4.1 per cent up to £50.4 million.

Bank injunctions

THE Bank of England yesterday obtained High Court injunctions against Colonial Guard Investments, based in Croydon, Surrey, and James Ian Hobson, of Stockport, Cheshire, on the grounds that they may have breached section 35 of the Banking Act 1987 in issuing certain advertisements and distributing promotional leaflets. The Bank investigation into the company continues.

Volex profits slide

DISPOSAL write-offs prompted a 12 per cent slide in interim profits to £5.1 million at Volex, the electrical connections and cable-assembly group. Turnover was up 15 per cent to £89.5 million and operating profits increased 7.5 per cent to £5.6 million. But the company took £400,000 of losses from the sale of its Raydex subsidiary in September. Shares rose 5p to 419p. A 7p (6.7p) interim dividend will be paid on February 6.

Setback for Bradford

BRADFORD Property Trust, the residential property investment group, said that rental income and property sales grew strongly in the six months to October 5, but, after increases in acquisition expenses, interest payments and the cost of re-letting, the company's pre-tax profit had fallen from £12.3 million to £11.7 million.

Net borrowings increased from £22 million to £47 million, and the company announced that it had restructured its borrowing to guard against currency and interest rate movements.

The interim dividend rises by 9 per cent, to 3.5p.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.22	2.08
Austria Sch	16.48	14.98
Belgium Fr	48.19	43.89
Canada $	2.230	2.070
Cyprus CypE	0.742	0.667
Denmark Kr	9.13	8.33
Finland Mrk	7.14	6.49
France Fr	8.02	7.37
Germany Dm	2.35	2.14
Greece Dr	379.45	354.45
Hong Kong $	12.75	11.75
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.1100	4.4600
Italy Lira	2597.00	2442.00
Japan Yen	172.21	156.21
Malta	0.589	0.534
Netherlds Gld	2.615	2.385
New Zealand $	2.54	2.32
Norway Kr	10.30	9.50
Portugal Esc	242.50	224.00
S Africa Rd	ret.	5.37
Spain Pta	196.50	183.50
Sweden Kr	11.02	10.22
Switzerland Fr	1.91	1.73
Turkey Lira	rster	78066.0
USA $	1.564	1.534

Rates for small denomination bank notes as supplied by Barclays Bank. Other rates for travellers' cheques. Rates at close of trading yesterday.

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Cheque Cashing	48	55	50	73	FREE
CREDITS					
Cheques	79	95	80	81	FREE
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☐ What future for Britain's housebuilders? ☐ Euro Disney into the black at last ☐ A numbers game at the CSO

Can housing find the floor?

☐ IF John Stewart is right, Tarmac, Costain, Mowlem and YJ Lovell have all made a terrible mistake, one about to be repeated by BICC. All five are part of the exodus from private housebuilding, a mass confirmation by those who should know best that the market is still going from bad to worse.

Unfortunately for the industry, and for those whose main asset is still-depreciating bricks and mortar, Mr Stewart is probably wrong. An independent consultant, he reckons the downturn is past, or so he has claimed to the Southern Home-Builders Association.

Here he is at least telling his audience what they want to hear, and a pity so many of them had reached the exits before he started. He points to marginal increases in house prices over the past three months and a flat trend in mortgage approvals, which seem flimsy foundations for a stable house market.

All the above companies are contractors who are quitting housing rather than straight housebuilders, because the latter do not exit, they go bust, and plenty have done just that.

For BICC, the exit is part of a grand old tradition called the New Chief Executive's Kitchen Sink. Alan Jones arrived in April and spent three months touring his new empire, and he has now decided what needs to be done at BICC. He wants returns on capital of 20 per cent from all businesses, sensible man, and the housebuilding side by contrast probably makes no return at all.

A climate of opinion in the housing industry, traditionally true-blue Tory to a man, says all may be well again if a Labour government is elected. Inflation would be higher, interest rates would be negative, and this would conveniently erode fat new mortgages.

Unfortunately, as Tony Blair may or may not be about to find out, the ability of his government to stoke up inflation again will be hampered both by a Bank of England that would still have its public say and by pressure from international money markets.

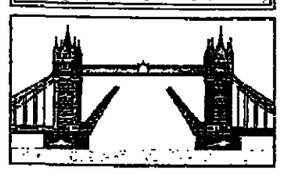
For a housebuilder to survive in what will almost certainly be a low inflation climate, therefore, it must be substantial in size — at least four times the size of BICC's operation, which builds at most 500 homes a year — to gain economies of scale. It needs a wide geographic spread, so if houses are not selling in London, sales in Newcastle, say, can provide a counter-balance.

It also needs a management that is focused on building and selling homes, and one that is quite good at it. Coincidentally, such an arrangement probably suits the country's housing needs rather well too. Better half a dozen efficient medium-sized units than the myriad of get-rich-quick merchants who prospered in the last housing boom.

Rights way out of a mousetrap

☐ SHAREHOLDERS in Euro Disney should be glad that the mouse has formed a club they can join to gain discounts and other perks, because it at last gives them a return on their shares. A profit, and a year

PENNINGTON



ahead of schedule to boot, is a highly creditable achievement, and the company is no longer the corporate figure of fun it was a couple of years ago, a turnround that is not least the result of some mended bridges with the City. But Mickey still has a lot more of the Magic Mountain to climb.

Consider the situation. Euro Disney is (just) making enough profit to cover financing costs of its debt. These costs, because of the structuring of that debt, will climb year by year, while management fees and royalties forgone to the Disney corporation will kick in again in 1999.

To cover all these, Euro Disney needs to raise revenues by 4 to 5 per cent a year, through higher prices and spend per head, more visitors and general good housekeeping, and management believes it can beat this. But this is running faster to stay still, if the bulk of your operating profits are still handed over to the banks.

In this situation, any sensible corporate financier would advise a year or two of such financial immobility as a pledge of good behaviour and then a rights issue — indeed it was just this lugubrious arithmetic that spurred Cordiant, *né* Saatchi, to its recent cash-raising. This seems the best way out for the mouse, especially if this were combined with the fresh finance for the second theme park, now on permanent hold.

There is just one difficulty, aside from the fact that shareholders have already put up for one rights. Prince al-Waleed bin Talal, with 23 per cent, has made clear his continued support. But how keen would Disney in Burbank, with 39 per cent, be to put up the needed cash or see further dilution on its holding?

Making an odd job of statistics

☐ ONE cannot help feeling that the Central Statistical Office is teasing us. It only recently took over unemployment figures but is clearly having fun. In July, the jobless total rose by a shocking 1,700, causing Cassandras to emerge shrieking from every doorway. Ho, ho, the figures were soon revised down, to show yet another fall in the official count, albeit of only 200.

The seasonally-adjusted total has risen again, but by a statistically insignificant 200. CSO statisticians made it clear straight away that the figures were likely to be revised again by more than this amount — although who can say which way? Given that there was a month on month fall of 80,000 before seasonal adjustments, compared with a fall of 125,000 in October last year, it is clear why they did not think their own figures meant much.

Behind this dance of the seven veils, however, is an all-too-real economic slowdown that does not need today's figures to prove it. Retail sales have hardly risen in volume over the past year, hardly surprising if average earnings have risen just 3.25 per cent, a full percentage point less than needed to make people better off after tax.

All that provides a timely economic excuse (Gordon Brown please note) for the Budget tax cuts and lower interest rates that Kenneth Clarke, the would-be populist, wanted anyway.

A shot in the dark

☐ BRUSSELS has set up a £240 million fund to help European film makers raise cash. Sadly, assisted Euro-productions in the past, as opposed to ventures forged in the red-hot crucible of commerce, have tended to be real clunkers, known in the trade as Europuddings. A few more *Four Weddings* would be a treat. But can the Euro-Commissioners be trusted to steer clear of German farce or Belgian social realism?

Unigate clears the decks for food deals

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

UNIGATE, the food and dairy company, looks set to go on a shopping spree after announcing that it is selling its 29 per cent stake in Nutricia, the Dutch baby food manufacturer, for an expected £330 million.

Unigate is expected to try to expand its European food and distribution interests, although previous rumoured bid targets, such as Hazlewood and Dairy Crest, were being discounted last night.

Unigate yesterday pleased the City with better than expected half-year profits, up 12.5 per cent, to £60.4 million, on turnover up 17 per cent, to £1 billion. The shares rose 7p, to 432p.

Unigate has seen the value of its stake in Nutricia double in the past two years. At the half-year stage, Nutricia contributed £11 million, a rise of 25 per cent on last year, to Unigate profits.

Unigate, whose chief executive is Ross Buckland, said it was withdrawing from Nutricia because of the limited cash flow that it receives from the stake and a desire to continue its strategy of focusing on its general food interests.

The company said that the sale would "finance additional investment opportunities with greater rewards". The share placing will be led by S G Warburg and is expected to be completed by December.

Unigate's results were boosted by a good showing from the European foods division, whose profits rose by 23 per cent, to £41 million. The improvement was helped by the first half-year contribution by its two recent French acquisitions, Vedial and Prodipal.

The fresh food division, which includes brands such as St Ivel, increased profits from £14.8 million to £24.5 million. Sales of Malton, the bacon producer, rose by 24 per cent.

Unigate faced continuing problems in its dairy divisions, whose profits fell by £2 million, to £16.5 million. Milk sales have been hit by the abolition of the Milk Marketing Board and the shift from doorstep delvieries. Volumes declined by 2 per cent in total, and the hot weather hit doorstep delivery by up to 18 per cent.

The Wincanton distribution business also made slow progress. Profits of £10.6 million were only marginally ahead of last year. In the US, profits from the Black-eyed Pea restaurant business were halved to £3 million.

The dividend rises by 5.6 per cent, to 6.65p, due on January 5.

An EGM to clear the Nutricia sale will be held in London on 1 December.



Buckland: pleased City

No more life for One Life

BY ROBERT MILLER

A COMPANY promoting a multi-level money circulation scheme known as The Businessman Game was last night in the hands of the Official Receiver after an investigation by the Department of Trade and Industry.

DTI inspectors are understood to have found nearly £500,000 in cash and bank accounts at the office of One Life Limited, based at the Pixmore Centre in Letchworth, Hertfordshire. The High Court appointed the Official Receiver as provisional liquidator "to protect and preserve the assets and financial records until the hearing of a winding-up petition" on January 17.

It is believed that more than 1,600 people from around the country paid an initial up-front membership fee of £2,000 each. They were offered £500 for introducing a friend to the scheme as part of an incentive programme.

Up to 75 per cent of the money provided by members was redistributed around the structure with the majority of the rewards going to the founder members.

BICC closures as profits slow

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

SECOND-HALF profits at BICC, the cables and construction group, are set to fall as it embarks on an £80 million factory closure programme overseas.

The company, which owns Balfour Beatty, the civil engineer, said dearer raw materials and a flood of cheap cables from eastern Europe would mean results for 1995 would be below market expectations. Analysts downgraded full-year pre-tax profits by about £20 million to £130 million before rationalisation costs.

A factory in Schönow in Berlin has been earmarked for closure and will account for a "sizeable chunk" of the £80 million provision.

BICC also confirmed yesterday that its housing business, Clarke Homes, which operates mainly in the Midlands and south of England, was up for sale. Interested parties are already in talks. The sale would result in the group writing off £44 million of goodwill.

The board still intends to pay a 12.5p dividend.

Pennington, this page

Bid partner sought for Gartmore

BY PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

NATIONSBANK, the US bank, has been searching for a European partner to submit a joint bid for Gartmore, the fund management firm that was put up for sale by Banque Indosuez in September.

NationsBank, which last year signed an agreement with Gartmore to sell international equity investment products to US retail clients, has an option to buy 25 per cent of Gartmore's shares. It is less keen to bid for the remaining 75 per cent Indosuez stake because it would involve taking on goodwill. Under US accounting rules NationsBank would have to amortise the goodwill through the profit and loss account, which would hit profits.

One of the main problems is how to tie in key directors and fund managers. A purchaser would need to ensure they were retained. A deal is, therefore, expected to include significant "golden hello" payments or guaranteed bonuses for the key players, such as Paul Myners, chairman and chief executive, and David Watts, director of UK investment.

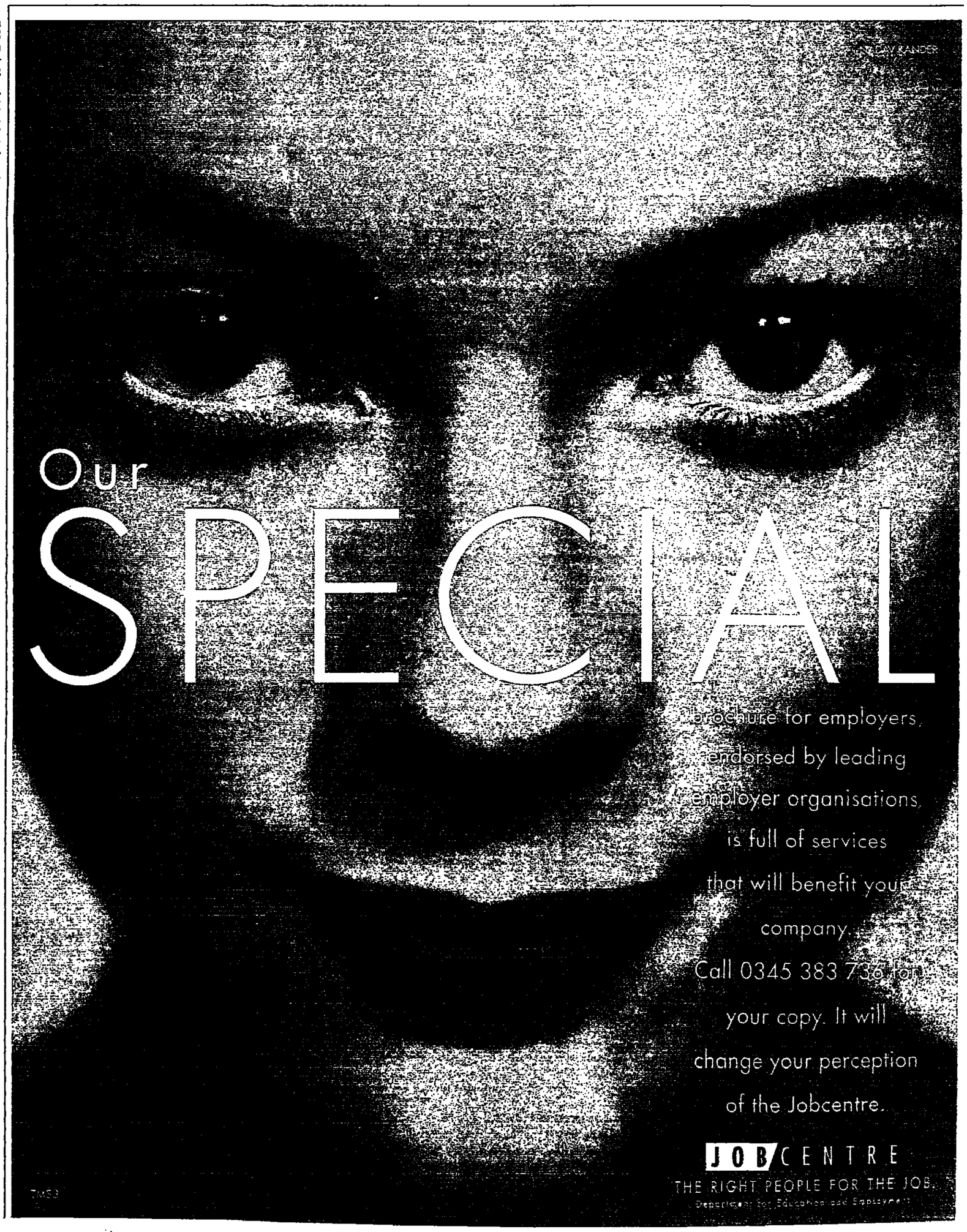
Land Sec pays more from less

BY CARL MORTISHED

LAND SECURITIES, the property group, increased its half-year dividend, despite a fall in earnings per share. The interim is up 3.6 per cent to 7.1p, while profits fell from £119 million to £118 million. Earnings per share slipped from 16.81p to 16.5p

Profits are being hit by the combined effect of lack of rental growth and the company's heavy spending on developments. Sir Peter Hunt, chairman, explained that the impact on the bottom line was expected. He said: "Profits are bound to be adversely affected during any major development programme because we do not capitalise interest as part of the cost of development."

Capital expenditure totalled £66 million during the half year to September 30 and the interest bill rose from £74 million to almost £80 million. Sir Peter said that revenues from the new buildings would begin to show through in the year to March 1988. Developments, such as Eland House SW1, a site in Cannon Street in the City and the White Rose Shopping Centre near Leeds will make a contribution.



STOCK MARKET



PHILIP PANGALOS

Swiss bid talk proves to be a tonic for Zeneca

SHARES enjoyed a strong rally as hopes of a cut in domestic interest rates were revitalised and speculative whispers of a possible bid for **Zeneca** resurfaced.

Evidence of buying from central Europe prompted new talk a bid for Zeneca from Roche, the Swiss drugs group, possibly at £15 a share, which would value the UK pharmaceuticals group at more than £14 billion. Zeneca ended 46½p higher at £12.90½.

Meanwhile, news of the first upward move in the jobless total for more than two years and further confirmation of sluggish retail sales helped equities recover from early falls. The economic numbers, along with a cut in German money-market rates, revived hopes of lower domestic interest rates and enlivened the stock market in spite of a string of profit warnings.

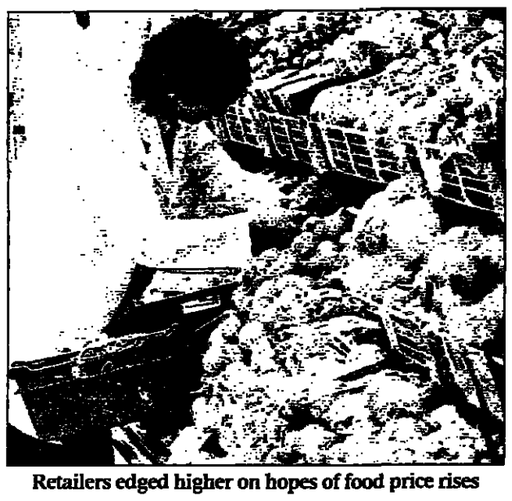
The cash market's advance was largely futures-driven, although there was also late buying from American investors. A mildly positive start on Wall Street, after mixed US economic data, helped to bolster sentiment in late London trading. The FT-SE 100 index closed near its best of the day at 3,571.4, up 23.5. Volume reached 692 million shares.

The building sector was the centre of attention after **Tarmac** and **George Wimpey** unveiled plans for an asset-swap deal that will sharpen both companies' business focus.

Under the plan, Tarmac will exchange its private housing arm for Wimpey's minerals and construction business in a move that will see Wimpey focusing solely on housing and land development. Neither company anticipates earnings dilution from the deal, which will be completed early next year. Tarmac advanced 9p to 92½p, on volume of 20.3 million shares, while Wimpey jumped 15p to 127p, on 6.46 million shares traded.

Elsewhere, **British Gas** fell 4p to 241½p, on volume of 11.9 million shares, after the gas group revealed deepening third-quarter losses during the off-peak summer months, leading to downgradings.

Analysts went for their red pens after **BICC**, the cables to construction group, gave warning that full-year profits will fall short of market expecta-tions. BICC, down 9p to 253p, told of weak second half trading and unveiled £80 million of rationalisation costs



Retailers edged higher on hopes of food price rises

to try to restructure its troubled low-voltage cables business, and may sell its housebuilding unit.

The downtrend in cable prices and concern that there is too much capacity in Europe, with competition from the likes of Alcatel, Siemens and Pirelli, and the US has prompted Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, to

long-awaited plans to sell its 29 per cent stake in Nutricia, the Dutch baby foods group, through a book-building offering. The deal is likely to be worth £329 million. Elsewhere in the sector, Unigate bid speculation saw **Hazlewood Foods** add 3p to 111p.

Rate cut hopes and broker recommendations offset the lower retail sales numbers,

Rank Organisation dipped 6p to 394p after NatWest Securities again advised clients to reduce holdings in the leisure group. NatWest has issued a hefty research note questioning the potential growth and asset values of Rank's bingo business. Fair value for shares is seen to be about 10 per cent lower than the present level.

further reduce its forecast. Mike Styles at CLL thinks it is still to early to buy BICC shares, in spite of a high yield, and has cut his current year pre-tax profit estimate from £135 million to £110 million, before the impact of the restructuring.

Unigate added 7p to 432p after the dairy products group accompanied a 12.5 per cent rise in first-half profits with

with **Next** up 17p to 436p, boosted by positive noises from ABN Amro Hoare Govett and NatWest Securities, while **Storehouse** added 15p to 311p, with BZW, said to be recommending them.

Euro Disney tumbled to 188p before partly recovering to 194p, down 21p, in spite of reporting full-year net income of Fr114 million (Fr1.8 billion loss), the first time the Paris theme park group has been in the black. The fall was partly due to profit-taking, though some analysts are concerned about "relatively disappointing" growth during peak summer period and a heavier-than-expected cost structure.

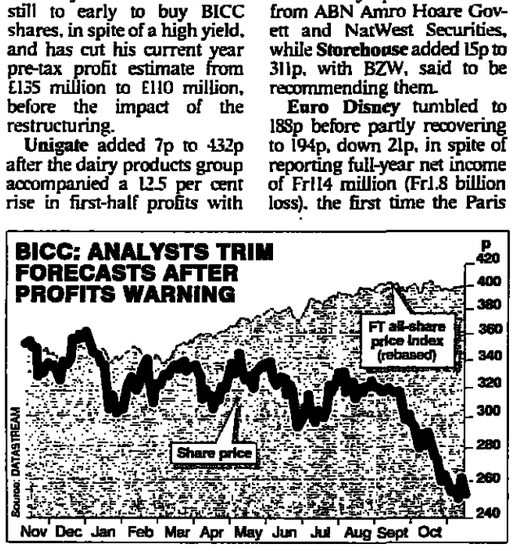
Hopes that food prices will recover from recent falls and possibly start to rise next year saw some nibbling among the food retailers. Those deemed to have fared best in the aftermath of the ongoing food price wars enjoyed the strongest gains, with **Asda Group** up 3¼p to 102½p, on heavy volume of 19 million shares traded, bolstered as CLL reiterated its buy recommendation, while **Argyll**, owner of the Safeway supermarket chain, rose 7½p to 315½p and **Tesco** 7p to 295p.

Pentex Oil gushed 20p higher to 140p after the company received a £31 million agreed bid from **Melrose Energy**, worth 156p a share. Melrose, which also announced a £13 million one-for-five rights issue at 34p, eased ½p to 38p. Elsewhere, **Greenway** slid 25p to 72p after the oil services firm accompanied lower profits with a warning about challenging conditions continuing.

Britannia Group fell 3p to 23p after giving warning that a dull autumn housing market is likely to lead to full-year profits being below City expectations, though the dividend will be held. Record full-year profits and optimism for the future helped **VTR**, the television post-production specialist, jump 20p to 114p.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** The market received a boost after the weaker-than-expected retail sales and unemployment figures pointed to subdued inflationary pressures and gave renewed hopes of interest rate cuts. The December long gilt future hit a high of £108^{12}/$_{32}$ before shortening and profit-taking before today's RPI and PSBR figures saw it end at £107^{31}/$_{32}$, up 5 ticks, on volume of 76,000 contracts. Among conventionals, shorts added £^{1}/$_{16}$, while gains extended to £^{3}/$_{16}$ for longer-dated and £⅛ for index-linked.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Industrial shares were higher at midday in a rather flat market as investors attention was distracted by the Budget battle in Washington. The Dow Jones industrial average was up 10.12 points at 4,881.93.



MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 4881.03 (+10.12)
S&P Composite 590.11 (+0.82)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 17682.74 (-119.77)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 9431.38 (+24.01)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index 459.01 (+0.19)

Sydney:
AO 2110.30 (-14.30)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2186.17 (-11.12)

Singapore:
Straits 2067.16 (+0.16)

Brussels:
General 7818.68 (+25.89)

Paris:
CAC-40 1875.18 (+36.97)

Zurich:
SKA Gen 692.40 (-2.70)

London:

FT 30	2611.0 (+6.8)
FT 100	3571.4 (+23.5)
FT-SE Mid 250	3922.2 (+16.9)
FT-SE-A 350	1775.1 (+10.8)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1412.62 (-1.78)
FT A All-Share	1751.46 (+9.91)
FT Non Financials	1854.99 (+10.52)
FT Fixed Interest	112.82 (+0.06)
FT Govt Secs	94.33 (-0.003)
Bargains	27885
SEAQ Volume	691.4m
USM (Datastrm)	187.46 (-0.07)
US$	1.5575 (-0.0070)
German Mark	2.1863 (-0.0259)
Exchange Index	82.6 (-0.7)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.1699
£:SDR	1.0445
RPI 150.6 Sep (3.9%) Jan 1987=100	
RPIX 149.2 Sep (3.1%) Jan 1987=100	

RECENT ISSUES

Abtrust Asian Sml	92	...
Abtrust Sml Cos Wts	32½	...
Alpha Omikron	22	...
Arlon Props	9	...
BZW Eqts Tesco Elts	300	+ 7
Baronsmd VCT (100)	96	+ 1
Benfield & Rea	101	...
Chartwell Intl	60	...
Creos Intl	122	- 2
David Glass (60)	70	...
Enterprse Inns (145)	145	- 1
Guinness Flight	91	...
Guinness Flight U	191	...
Guinness Flight W	10	...
Heritage Baths (125)	155	+ 2
Indpt Radio	112	...
Intl Greetings	503	- 10
MultiMedia (45)	65	+ 2
Northern Venture	97	...
Perp UK Sml C (100)	99	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Quality SP n/p (535)	107	...
Rhino Group n/p (8)	5	...
Stordata Sols n/p (12)	10	...
Superscape n/p (330)	81	- 4
Wellington U n/p (100)	¼	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

VTR	114p (+20p)
Dart	119p (+17p)
Lloyds Chem	248p (+16p)
Aspen Comms	248p (+10p)
Morris Ashby	305p (+12p)
Next	436p (+17p)
BPB Ind	310p (+12p)
Sage Group	279p (+10p)
Com Union	614p (+16p)

FALLS:

Euro Disney	194p (-21p)
Euro Leisure	170p (-9p)
Cortecs	152p (-8p)
Forward Gp	610p (-30p)
BICC	253p (-9p)
Vendome	548p (-15p)
Danka Bs Sys	555p (-15p)
Scotia	639p (-10p)
Charter	819p (-10p)

Closing Prices Page 33

TEMPUS

Contractors mix and match

TARMAC and Wimpey should have delivered a single statement yesterday on their asset swap. Separated by both time and distance, Neville Simms and Joe Dwyer, the respective chief executives, made identical sermons about the need for "strategic focus" and both agreed it was a "win-win" deal. The deal would be a catalyst for an industry needing consolidation, they said. Unfortunately, no sooner had the two men finished talking than the cynics began whispering that Wimpey had the better end of the bargain. Tarmac would be hard pushed to retrieve the profits lost from selling homes and would have difficulty in squeezing decent margins out of the enlarged contracting business.

The carping criticism is a little unfair to Tarmac. The company should be given some credit for having the guts to start the consolidation process, which the whole world believes was overdue. Moreover, the assumption that there is a winner and loser assumes a short-term earnings horizon. Neither company is prepared to forecast housebuilding profits after the recent plunge in volumes, but the City reckons Tarmac is giving up £40 million. In exchange, it is taking on profits of about £20 million from aggregates and operating losses from Wimpey Construction. Clearly, Tarmac's JCBs will be working hard to fill the hole.

Some extra profit will come from cash surpluses from Wimpey construction, but the attraction of this deal for Tarmac investors is a longer-term play on stone and gravel. Prices have been going up in spite of falling volumes and Tarmac's share of the aggregates market will soar from 19 per cent to 26 per cent with a 30 per cent share in coated stone. Consolidation should help to keep prices steady.

Meanwhile, Wimpey investors will need to have some faith in the company's ability to generate enough cash to sustain a fairly aggressive expansion programme, most of which will take place in the volatile American and Australian housing markets.

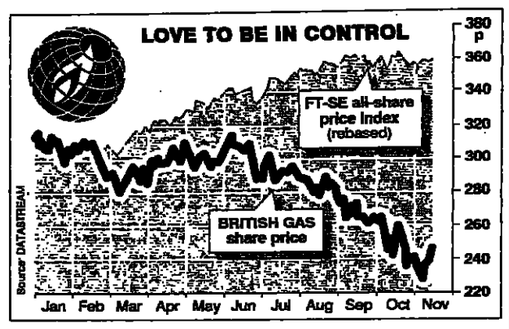
British Gas

BRITISH GAS directors must be cursing the balmy autumn. Warm weather will only exacerbate the country's gas surplus and force BG to pay for fuel its customers do not need. The company is making pre-payments of £520 million this year for gas it does not need under the agreements. The pre-payments are not losses but will appear as a creditor in BG's balance sheet until it finds a buyer for the gas and takes delivery.

The problem is deteriorating cash flow; BG is paying for gas it does not yet need and there is no sign of an escape from the supply/demand imbalance. Currently, the spot price of gas is about 8-9p, but some in the industry believe the price is being artificially supported at that level by the oil companies that have some control over the level of production and need to cover costs.

In the North Sea operating costs are about $3 per barrel, which translates to about 5p per therm; these can fall to about 3p in the Southern Gas basin, but taking into account depreciation and financing costs, the producers would earn little or nothing from selling at the spot price.

BG has little control and few levers to persuade the oil companies to negotiate. It can be awkward by demanding unreasonable swings in the amount of gas it takes, but the company's best hope is that big sister oil will start to worry about the health of brother gas.



Unigate

UNIGATE'S decision to pull out of Nutricia, the Dutch clinical and infant foods company, will please shareholders. The prospect of chairman Ian Martin — responsible for GrandMet's purchase of Pillsbury — waving a £330 million cheque is guaranteed to feed the City rumour mill for some time. However, the big targets, such as Hazelwood and Dairy Crest, look out of reach for now. Instead, Unigate is more likely to bolster its foods and distribution divisions with a series of small tactical acquisitions.

The strategy is to move the company further away from a UK milk market that has gone sour, as seen by yesterday's dip in profits. Unigate has done a creditable job in swallowing the effects of the abolition last year of the Milk Marketing Board. Less than a third of sales and profits now derive from the dairy division.

However, it is food not milk that will help Unigate to grow. Only the US restaurant business looks out of place in the portfolio, but having missed the chance to withdraw two years ago, Unigate will need some time to knock that business back into shape before it is put on the block. Unigate is now in better shape to rebuild its position at at time when the industry is at a low ebb.

Land Securities

Property shares enjoyed a small bounce yesterday. Economists, looking at the weak retail spending figures, predicted an interest rate cut which encouraged some to believe the sector was due for long-awaited relief.

Relief for some industries perhaps, notably housebuilding, but not for large property investment companies like Land Securities. Short-term borrowing rates are irrelevant to Land Sec which, quite sensibly, finances itself at the long end of the bond market. Such companies seek to match borrowings to long income streams, namely lease that can endure for 15 years or more and short-term rates frequently move in the opposite direction to 15-year money.

Even if long bond yields fall, causing a hardening of property yields, Land Sec may have to wait for a re-rating. The company is shrinking its dividend cover to maintain growth. That will need to be rebuilt when profits recover, leaving growth prospects unexciting.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Dec	934-932	Mar	1044-1042
Mar	968-967	May	1055-1052
May	984-983	Jul	unq
Jul	1001-1000	Sep	...
Sep	1022-1021		
Dec	1036-1034	Volume 3416	

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Nov	2505-2500	Jul	2065-2090
Jan	2305-2304	Sep	2045-2030
Mar	2210-2215	Nov	2010-1980
May	2140-2140	Volume 2612	

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Aug	322.3-321.0
Spot: 378.0		Oct	292.8-91.3
Dec	374.0-67.4	Dec	286.2-85.6
Mar	341.5-40.0	Mar	283.7-79.5
May	331.3-30.3	Volume 3258	

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average livestock prices at representative markets on November 14

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB	100.14	109.5%	123.0%
(+/-)	+0.5%	+0.6%	-1.9%
England/Wales:	100.5%	109.2%	121.7%
(+/-)	-0.5%	+0.6%	-2.2%
(%)	+22.0	+3.0	+41.0
Scotland:	95.7%	105.9%	132.0%
(+/-)	+0.5%	+0.6%	-1.1%
(%)	+3.0	n/c	-7.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	16.65	+0.10
Brent 15 day (Dec)	16.75	+0.15
Brent 15 day (Jan)	16.45	+0.10
W Texas Intermediate (Dec)	17.95	+0.15
W Texas Intermediate (Jan)	17.65	+0.10

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas .15	B: 186 (+2)	O: 188 (+2)
Gasoil EEC	156 (+1)	157 (+1)
Non EEC 1H Dec	156 (+1)	157 (+1)
Non EEC 1H Jan	157 (+1)	158 (+1)
3.5 Fuel Oil	85 (+1)	87 (+1)
Naphtha	148 (n/c)	150 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Dec	153.75-54.00	Mar	151.25-51.50
Jan	154.00-54.25	Apr	149.75-50.00
Feb	152.75-53.00	Vol: 12304	

BRENT (6.00pm)

Dec	16.74-16 76	Mar	16 05-16.09
Jan	16.48-16 50	Apr	15 94-15 97
Feb	16.24-16 26	Vol: 32047	

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Nov	128.00	Nov	117.50
Jan	129.00	Jan	119.60
Mar	131.00	Mar	121.90
May	133.00	May	124.15
Jul	135.25	Sep	113.50
Volume: 918		Volume: 178	

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Mar	unq	270.0
Apr	268.0	267.0
May	unq	305.0
	Volume	

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Clf p/k)

Dec 111.50-112.00

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Nov 95	1765	1729	1743
Dec 95	1745	1675	1690
Jan 96	1705	1665	1629
Apr 96	1700	1580	1620
Vol: 664 lots		Open interest: 4060	

Index 1704+18

(Official) (Volume prev day)

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

Rudolf Wolff

	Cash:	3mth:	Vol:
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2070.0-2080.0	2074.0-2075.0	32,226.5
Lead ($/tonne)	678.50-679.50	678.00-678.50	2,217.5
Zinc spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1010.5-1011.0	1034.0-1035.0	5,725.0
Tin ($/tonne)	6790.0-6795.0	6340.0-6345.0	2,741.0
Aluminium HI Gde ($/tonne)	1622.0-1624.0	1660.0-1661.5	1,257.5
Nickel ($/tonne)	9340.0-9345.0	9455.0-9460.0	92.6.6

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100	Dec 95	3550.0	3598.0	3545.0	3590.0	10106
Previous open interest: 70511	Mar 96	3571.5	3603.0	3571.5	3614.0	106
FT-SE 250	Dec 95				3930.0	0
Previous open interest: 3537	Mar 96				3973.0	0
Three Month Sterling	Dec 95	93.37	93.42	93.35	93.36	16234
Previous open interest: 361413	Mar 96	93.60	93.66	93.57	93.59	36903
	Jun 96	93.60	93.69	93.59	93.63	17466
Three Mth Eurodollar	Dec 95				94.29	0
Previous open interest: 110	Mar 96				94.66	0
Three Mth Euro DM	Dec 95	96.07	96.10	96.07	96.09	13707
Previous open interest: 86707	Mar 96	96.27	96.32	96.27	96.30	16736
Long Gilt	Dec 95	107-24	108-12	107-22	107-31	76348
Previous open interest: 107332	Mar 96	107-20	107-28	107-12	107-11	86
Japanese Govmt Bond	Dec 95	122.25	122.54	122.25	122.54	4446
	Mar 96	120.92	121.17	120.92	121.19	2525
German Gov Bd Bund	Dec 95	97.46	97.73	97.45	97.68	107301
Previous open interest: 213779	Mar 96	96.91	97.09	96.91	97.08	3265
Three month ECU	Dec 95	94.42	94.49	94.42	94.49	1175
Previous open interest: 21170	Mar 96	94.61	94.68	94.61	94.68	586
Euro Swiss Franc	Dec 95	98.07	98.09	98.04	98.07	4225
Previous open interest: 9302	Mar 96	98.20	98.21	98.20	98.20	4221
Italian Govmt Bond	Dec 95	103.18	103.58	103.07	103.50	37153
Previous open interest: 42791	Mar 96	102.85	103.14	102.85	103.11	382

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6% Finance Hse 7

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 7 Low 6⅝ Week fixed. 6⅛

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6⅛; 3 mth 6⅛; Sell: 2 mth 6⅛; 3 mth: 6⅛.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛
Sterling Money Rates:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛
Interbank:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛

Overnight: open 6⅛, close 6⅛.

Local Authority Deps:	6⅛	n/a	6⅛	6⅛	6⅛
Sterling CDs:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛
Dollar CDs:	5.71	n/a	5.78	5.65	5.64
Building Society CDs:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅛-5⅜	5⅛-5⅜	5⅛-5⅜	5⅛-5⅜	4⅝-5⅛
Deutschemark:	4-3⅞	4-3⅞	4-3⅞	3⅝-3⅜	4⅛-3⅞
French Franc	6-5¾	6⅛-5¾	6⅛-6	6⅛-5¾	7-5
Swiss Franc	3-2¾	3-2⅝	3⅛-3	3⅛-2⅞	2¾-1½
Yen	⅛-⅛	⅛-⅛	⅛-⅛	⅛-⅛	n/a

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $386.00-386.30 Close: $385.80-386.30 High: $385.80-386.30
Low: $384.60-385.10 AM: $385.60 PM: $385.30

Krugerrand: $387.00-389.00 (£248.00-250.00)

Platinum: $415.15 (£266.30) **Silver:** $5.36 (£3.435) **Palladium:** $134.50 (£86.20)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Nov 15	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.4463-2.4605	2.4463-2.4496	½pr	1½-1¾pr
Brussels	44.92-45.03	44.93-45.03	12-9pr	33-28pr
Copenhagen	8.6590-8.6760	8.6740-8.6960	1¼-¾pr	3-2¾pr
Dublin	0.9695-0.9732	0.9707-0.9732	11-8pr	27-22pr
Frankfurt	2.1650-2.1970	2.1861-2.1892	½pr	1½-1¾pr
Lisbon	229.10-231.24	229.30-229.93	26-54ds	110-160ds
Madrid	186.04-186.35	186.09-186.35	41-51ds	136-155ds
Milan	2475.9-2489.8	2475.9-2480.0	7-9ds	24-27ds
Montreal	2.1104-2.1232	2.1104-2.1134	0.18-0.19pr	0.30-0.19pr
New York	1.5576-1.5648	1.5580-1.5590	0.13-0.11pr	0.35-0.32pr
Oslo	9.6404-9.7100	9.6480-9.6630	1½-1¼pr	4¼-3¾pr
Paris	7.5470-7.5680	7.5470-7.5610	½pr	1½-1¾pr
Stockholm	10.307-10.383	10.310-10.334	½ds	½ds
Tokyo	157.15-157.94	157.15-157.42	½pr	2¼-2½pr
Vienna	15.371-15.465	15.376-15.403	½pr	1¾pr
Zurich	1.7648-1.7739	1.7686-1.7714	½pr	2¼-2½pr

Source: Extel *Premium - pr Discount - ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3568-1.3577
Austria	9.87-9.88
Belgium (Com)	28.83-28.87
Canada	1.3566-1.3571
Denmark	5.4410-5.4440
France	4.8533-4.8543
Germany	1.4022-1.4032
Hong Kong	7.7335-7.7340
Ireland	1.6035-1.6055
Italy	1991.20-1992.70
Japan	101.00-101.10
Malaysia	2.5330-2.5335
Netherlands	1.5716-1.5721
Norway	6.1930-6.1960
Portugal	147.22-147.32
Singapore	1.4113-1.4118
Spain	120.80-120.85
Sweden	6.0175-6.0250
Switzerland	1.1335-1.1345

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso	1.5582-1.5608
Australia dollar	2.1129-2.1157
Bahrain dinar	0.5840-0.5960
Brazil real	1.5005-1.5047
China yuan	12.00 Buy
Cyprus pound	0.6990-0.7050
Finland markka	6.5125-6.6285
Greece drachma	360.00-367.00
Hong Kong dollar	12.0436-12.0473
India rupee	53.04-54.60
Indonesia rupiah	3542.83-3610.00
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4640-0.4740
Malaysia ringgit	3.4431-3.4464
New Zealand dollar	2.4019-2.4061
Pakistan rupee	53.25 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.6350-5.7590
Singapore dollar	2.1970-2.1992
S Africa rand (com)	5.4380-5.7400
U A E dirham	5.6850-5.8910

Barclays Bank GTS - Lloyds Bank

FT-SE VOLUMES

3I	924	Legal & Gn	879
ASDA Gp	30,000	Lloyds Bk	1,400
Abbey Nat	1,600	London Elect	78
Allied Dom	3,500	Marks Spr	7,300
Argyll Gp	3,600	Mid Elec	7
Arjo Wgens	1,100	NatWst Bk	3,600
AB Foods	133	Nat Power	402
BAA	3,200	NW Water	491
BAT Inds	1,000	P & O	2,600
BOC	796	Pearson	1,291
BP	6,200	PowerGen	5,200
BskyB	2,600	Prudential	4,300
BTR	4,800	RFSAM	1,400
BT	9,400	RMC	1,700
Bk of Scot	1,000	RTZ	439
Barclays	880	Rank Org	2,200
Boots	4,600	Reckitt Col	414
Blue Circle	2,100	Redland	3,700
Boots	642	Reed Intl	1,900
BAe	1,500	Rentokil	5,600
BA	3,000	Reuters	1,500
Brit Gas	11,000	Rolls Royce	8,800
Brit Steel	8,000	Royal Ins	2,200
Burmah Cstl	611	Ryl Bk Scot	1,200
Cable Wire	2,700	Sainsbury	5,300
Cadbury	852	Schroders	432
Carlton Cms	1,100	Scot & Newc	434
Cm Union	1,700	Scot Power	631
Cookson	872	Sears	4,400
Courtaulds	1,600	Svrn Trent	499
De La Rue	932	Shell Trans	9,400
Enterpr Oil	2,600	Slebe	2,100
Forte	2,400	SmKl Bch	2,800
GKN	291	Smith Nph	922
GKE	716	Sthern Elec	103
GUS	1,900	Std Chartd	411
Gen Acc	1,500	Sun Allince	1,100
Gen Elec	6,700	Tl Gp	1,900
Glaxo Well	3,900	TSB	4,300
Granada	767	Tate & Lyle	1,400
Grand Met	4,100	Tesco	6,300
Guinness	1,600	Thames W	587
HSBC	400	Thrn EMI	1,200
Hanson	7,400	Tomkins	8,900
ICI	1,000	Unilever	280
Inchcape	3,700	Vodafone	10,000
Kingfisher	10,000	Whitbread	1,500
LASMO	2,500	Wilms Hld	1,600
Ladbroke	17,000	Wolseley	2,400
Land Secs	724	Zeneca	1,900

WALL STREET

	Nov 15 midday	Nov 14 close
AMP Inc	39	39
AMR Corp	66⅞	67⅛
AT & T	64½	63⅝
Abbott Labs	39⅝	39⅝
Advanced Micro	21⅛	21
Aetna Life	71½	71⅝
Ahmanson (HF)	25⅝	25⅞
Air Prod & Chem	58⅛	56⅝
AirTouch Comm	30⅛	30⅛
Alberto-Culver B	31	31⅛
Albertson's	32⅝	33⅛
Alcan Aluminm	31⅛	32
Alco Standard	46⅝	46
Allied Signal	44⅛	45
Alum Co of Am	52⅞	53⅛
Amax Gold Inc	6⅝	6½
Amerada Hess	47⅞	47⅞
Amer Brands	42½	42⅝
Amer El Power	36⅝	37
Amer Express	42⅞	42⅛
Amer Genl Corp	33⅝	33⅝
Amer Home Pr	99⅝	99
Amer Intl	95⅝	95½
Amer Stores	28⅝	28⅝
Amertech	53½	53⅛
Amoco	67⅞	67⅝
Anheuser-Busch	65⅞	66⅛
Apple Computer	40⅛	41½
Archer Daniels	16⅛	16⅛
Armco	6⅛	6
Armstrng Wrld	61⅛	61⅞
Asarco	32⅝	32⅝
Ashland Oil	32	32⅝
Atl Richfield	109	109⅛
Auto Data Pro	72⅝	72⅝
Avery Dennison	46⅜	47⅛
Avon Products	71⅛	71
Baker Hughes	19⅞	19⅝
Baltim Gas & El	28⅜	28⅜
Banc One	35⅞	36
BankAmerica	58⅛	58⅝
Bank of NY	42⅝	42⅝
Bankers Tr NY	63⅛	63⅛
Barnett Banks	57	57
Bausch & Lomb	36½	36⅝
Baxter Intl	30⅞	30⅞
Bear Stearns	22	22⅛
Bell Atlantic	62⅝	63⅛
Bell Industries	21⅛	23⅛
BellSouth	39⅝	39⅝
Black & Decker	30⅛	30⅝
Block (H&R)	44⅛	44⅛
Boeing	72⅜	71⅞
Boise Cascade	34⅜	35⅛
Bristol Myrs Sq	79⅝	79⅝
Browning Ferris	28⅜	28
Brunswick	20⅝	20⅝
Burlington Nthn	79⅛	80
CPC	81	81⅛
CSX Financial	117	116⅞
CPL Intl	66⅛	66
CSX	84⅛	84⅝
Campbell Soup	52⅜	51⅞
Can Pacific	17	17
Cnl Cities ABC	117	118⅛
Carolina Pwr	32⅝	32⅝
Caterpillar	55½	56
Central & SW	26⅛	26⅛
Champion Intl	45⅜	45⅜
Chase Manhat	57½	57⅝
Chemical Bk	58⅛	58⅛
Chevron Corp	54⅛	54⅛
Chrysler	49	47⅞
Chubb Corp	68	68½
Cigna Corp	101	104½
Citicorp	66	66⅛
Clorox	93⅜	93⅞
Coastal Corp	34⅛	33⅞
Coca Cola	77⅜	77⅜
Colgate-Palmolive	69⅛	69⅜
Columbia Gas	46⅜	46⅜
Compaq Comp	52⅛	51⅞
Comp Ass Int	52⅝	52⅝
Conagra	34⅜	35⅛
Conrail	67⅞	68⅛
Cons Edison	29⅝	29⅝
Cons Nat Gas	42⅜	41
Cooper Inds	34	33⅞
Coronas	36⅛	36⅛
Corning Inc	27⅞	27
Crown Cork	46⅛	46⅛
Dana Corp	27⅞	27⅝
Dayton Hudson	72⅜	72⅜
Deere	38	38⅛
Delta Air Lines	69⅛	69
Dialog Corp	25⅝	25⅝
Detroit Edison	25⅜	25⅜
Digital Equip	54⅛	54⅛
Dillard Dept St	29	29⅜
Disney (Walt)	59⅞	59

هكذا من الاصل

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Life's lessons in gold

GOLD may not only be good for your wealth — but also your health, education, and amusement, according to the latest intelligence from the Middle East souks. Apparently, a health scare has gripped many in America who still boast their own teeth, but who have amalgam fillings. They are said to be rushing to dentists to have old fillings replaced with non-toxic gold ones.

Meanwhile, sales of the alphabet in Arabic scrip are booming, and the latest fad that has seen adults rushing into children's toy shops is solid gold figurines of Disney characters. Hugging a golden Mickey Mouse rather than a tired teddy bear, while learning to spell in gold, is obviously much more fun.

DAWSON International, parent company of Pringle, the knitwear group, is not the first to complain about the weather's effect on profits. Accounting for these difficulties falls to Dawson's finance director — George Fairweather.

All change

IN WHAT it insists is not a tit-for-tat response to Merrill Lynch's poaching of its two top corporate financiers this week, Deutsche Morgan Grenfell has pinched the US bank's head of European banking research, Sacha Serafimovski. It has also added three more SBC Warburg names to its rapidly growing community of former Warburgers — now over 60. Steve Bridle, Russell Duckworth and Philip Highlander are to start on Monday as head of European equities trading in London, head of pan-European leisure and alcoholic beverages research, and European equities trader, respectively.



"If we have to pay we might as well take the gas"

Search for Ernie

MANAGING £50 billion lent by 30 million people is a serious business. Yet Treasury mandarins have still to appoint a new director of National Savings, a post which was first advertised in August. It's an important enough position that the First Lord of the Treasury — one John Major — usually approves the appointment. The position, initially for three years, commands an annual salary of £80,000, which is pretty meagre by City standards. Three outsiders and Kit Chivers, an ex-Treasury boffin who is currently acting director, are said to be on a short list. But doesn't mean anybody named Ernie can't still apply.

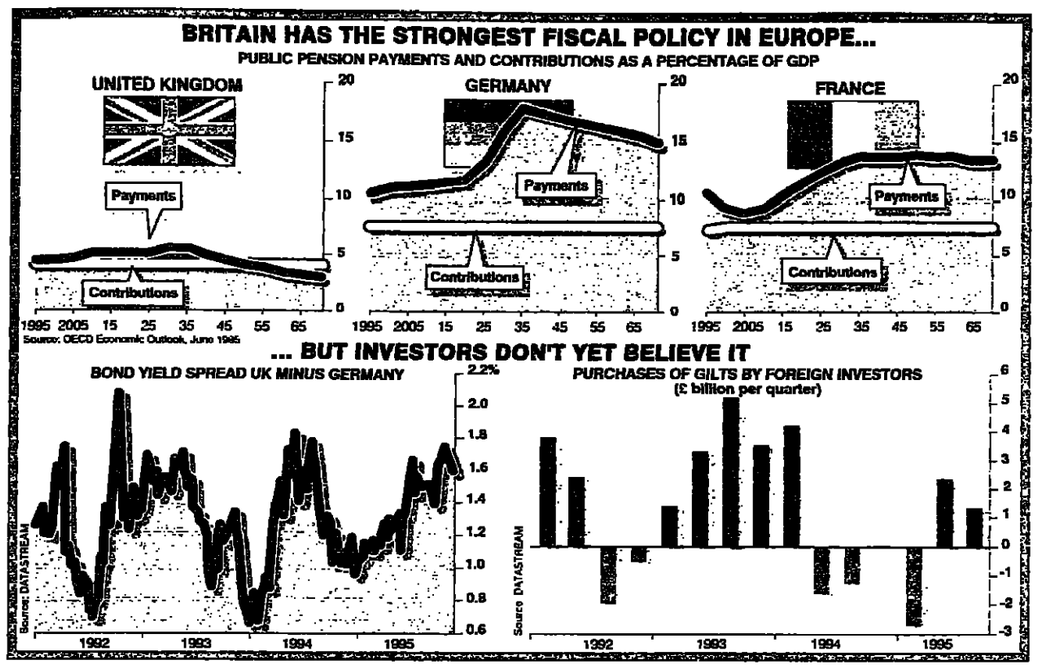
Out of sync

BRITISH Airways has an odd way of rousing staff. It recently urged 45,000 employees in Britain to watch a three-minute, supposedly morale-boosting, TV advert that would include a message from the BA chiefs on high. Trouble was, the advert — on Channel 4 — was booked for 3am and, for reasons beyond the airline's or Channel 4's control, TV schedules ran late. BA staff who videoed it found the message was nothing more exciting than a French film with subtitles.

COLIN CAMPBELL

ECONOMIC VIEW  ANATOLE KALETSKY

Bull market in gilts needed to complete virtuous circle



If there were any doubts that Britain now needs a cut in interest rates — regardless of the views of the Bank of England — they should have been dispelled by the grim figures on retail sales and unemployment published yesterday. Judging by the prices now being quoted in the City futures markets, this is a view with which most investors are finally beginning to agree. Eddie Goerge's fulminations and the malignant hardness of the German mark notwithstanding.

Combined with a reasonably responsible Budget (of which more below), a half-point cut in base rates before Christmas would transform the economic outlook for the year ahead and could offer the Tories their only (slim) hope of achieving some kind of political revival.

The alternative of emphasising modest tax cuts would simply draw attention to the far bigger tax increases the Tories have imposed in the past four years.

In view of this clear political calculation, if for no other reason, I expect Kenneth Clarke to make the reduction of interest rates his top priority in putting together the Budget. If I am right — and the City increasingly seems to endorse this kind of analysis — then the Budget and interest rate reduction which follows it should trigger a very powerful rally in financial markets, especially the market for gilt-edged government bonds.

A rally in gilts would, in turn, produce a very beneficial secondary impact on the whole economy and the Government's own economic strategy. By achieving lower bond yields, which the Bank of England sees as a token of "monetary credibility", Mr Clarke would not only help the economy and the Tory party, but also re-establish some harmony between the Treasury and the Bank. A further feedback loop, from improving financial sentiment to rising confidence in the Government, would complete the virtuous circle.

There is only one problem. So far, the gilt-edged market has shown little willingness to rally, at least until the past few days. Britain's domestic investors have always hated putting their money in fixed-interest bonds even though these have recently shown better risk-adjusted returns than equities. Foreign investors, whose presence or absence has often set the tone in the gilt market, have recently shown a mysterious lack of interest in British assets.

I say "mysterious" because the economic arguments for investment in gilts are compelling, especially from an international viewpoint. Britain's long-term fiscal prospects are now the strongest in Europe and arguably the world. On a day when the French Government finally seems to be grasping the nettle of welfare and pensions reform, to the enthusiastic applause of international investors, it is worth recalling that the British Government tackled and solved all these issues many years ago.

The contrast is illustrated in the top charts, drawn from the OECD study on long-term fiscal trends which I first discussed last June. The OECD study examined what demographic changes would do to public deficits if present tax legislation remained unchanged (on an indexed basis) and if public spending continued to grow in line with past economic trends. It concluded that Britain would enjoy continuous fiscal surpluses from the year 2000 onwards. In fact, if present tax and spending policies remained in effect for the next 30 years, Britain would be able to repay the entire national debt. Meanwhile, in France and Germany, the public debt would rise to more than 100 per cent of GDP.

Britain's prospects are remarkably good for two reasons: first, because of the remarkable efficiency of a centrally-administered National Health Service, and secondly, because, uniquely among the G7 countries, Britain has already bitten the bullet of largely privatising pensions. As a result, pensions will generate no additional pressure on the public finances with the ageing of the baby boom. In France and Germany, by contrast — and even more in Japan — demographic trends point to horrendous fiscal pressures in the next century.

Why, then, must British long-term bonds pay 1.6 percentage points more than German ones and 0.8 points more than French ones to attract investors?

Whenever I ask foreign investors why they are not buying huge quantities of British governments bonds — which now offer higher yields relative to German and other European obligations than they did a month after White Wednesday — they always give me the same answer. There is simply too much "political uncertainty".

Some of this nervousness relates to the Budget and is understandable, albeit probably wrong. It is still just conceivable that Mr Clarke will shock the City with a big increase in public borrowing, although I think it is far more likely that the Budget will be seen as a favorable surprise: if tax cuts are bigger than £3 billion, they will be matched with bigger than expected expenditure savings (at least on paper); if there are no unexpected spending cuts, then the tax measures will be very modest.

If the above conjectures are right, then the Budget could trigger a take-off in gilts. First, however, investors will have to overcome a deeper — and less rational — political fear.

Practically every investor I speak to believes that the gilt market is bound to fall sharply if a Labour government is elected. Those who are fundamentally bullish add that the post-election slump would prove an excellent time to buy gilts, especially if Tony Blair genuinely turns out to be a "new" Labour leader in the Australian or New Zealand mould. But to buy gilts before the election is to court an unacceptable degree of political risk.

This argument seems obvious, but logically it does not make sense. The opinion polls and all other political indicators now point so conclusively to a Labour victory that even the dimmest and most politically Conservative of gilt-edged investors must surely have factored this in as the most probable outcome. Of course, a year is a long time in politics and it is not impossible that John Major will do five times better than he did in the last election and close his 40 point-gap in the polls (at this stage in the last Parliament, the Tories were lagging by only eight points).

The point is, however, that nobody in the world could possibly be surprised if Labour won the next election, except Rip Van Winkle. This logically implies that a Labour win in 1997 would have no adverse effect on gilts. What would surprise investors, and therefore move markets, would be a Tory victory or even a big recovery in the polls. After the Budget, there will be only one real political "risk" in Britain: the outside chance of a Tory victory. The only possible surprise will be one that delights the markets.

From next week, Anatole Kaletsky will write a column on Tuesdays as well as Thursdays.

The last battle looms in war over figures

Robert Bruce on proposals to make financial reporting more transparent

The final battle over the future of financial reporting is about to begin. It will be the natural reaction to today's publication of the Accounting Standards Board's *Statements of Principles for Financial Reporting*. Since its inception five years ago, the ASB has been building a collection of statements to underpin its work in producing effective accounting standards to police the tarnished world of financial reporting.

These statements have been issued on a piecemeal basis, but the ASB is using today's publication of the *omnibus edition to force crucial* arguments into the open and to provide a framework for any future decisions. Sir David Tweedie, the ASB chairman, says: "It is, in effect, the board's compass for when we navigate uncharted waters in the years ahead." He describes it as "essential reading for those who want to know where the board is coming from."

The problem with this is that the battle lines are already drawn. Those who oppose the ASB revolution have been arguing noisily for some time. Now, they will have to come out into the open to mount serious opposition. "There will be," said Sir David, "a hell of a fight."

> Fewer and fewer people can take part in the debate

The ASB is, by and large, following the trend in international standard setting. It is trying to eliminate the confusion that used to arise in a company's profits and loss account when strictly non-trading figures, such as the notorious use of "extraordinary items", were lumped together with figures relating more directly to daily business.

To this end, a "statement of gains and losses" has been created. The balance sheet remains, as does the profit and loss account. The balance sheet should remain the rock on which fundamentals are founded. The profit and loss account becomes strictly the company's trading account. Everything else, such as the difference thrown up by property revaluation, will go in the statement of gains and losses.

This, Sir David says, "will show the fluctuations, the stuff that management feel uncomfortable about". Through another innovation, the operating and financial review, a management would explain these items in terms of strategy rather than leaving them as bald figures.

"The philosophy," says Sir David, "is quite different to that of the 1980s." And this is where the opposition comes in. These are the accountants now known as "matchers and smoothers". Their leader is Ernst & Young's technical guru, Ron Paterson. He disputes Sir David's view that the ASB framework is just "*telling it like it is*", and declares it "an academic diversion based on an economic theory which sounds good in the abstract but is not practical". For him, the ASB approach concentrates on assets and liabilities in the balance sheet and everything stems from that. He would advocate focusing on transactions and their allocation between accounting periods based on traditional concepts of accruals, matching and prudence. This means income figures are less distorted. They are smoothed. It avoids the fluctuations that Sir David wants detailed and explained. Paterson accepts that such an approach can be abused, but argues that the system "needs to be regulated, not abandoned". He says: "[It is] naive to think that banning extraordinary items has solved the problem. It has just scattered the problem around the profit and loss account."

At present, the ASB view is ascendant. However, that may simply be because much of the financial community has yet to take the revolution on board. "It is unduly complicated," says Paterson, "and it is beginning to be beyond the average businessman. So fewer and fewer people can take part in the debate".

So far, the battle has gone the ASB's way, but as the corporate sector realises how different, transparent and in need of explanation their figures would be, they may find that Paterson's standard is the one they shelter behind on the battlefield.

Teaching leaders success from a room at the top

Lord Sheppard offers advice on change and risk. **Alasdair Murray** reports



DENZIL McNEELANCE

Authors Philippe de Backer and Lord Sheppard

At first sight, asking Lord Sheppard to write a book about leadership seems a little like giving Vinny Jones a couple of hundred pages to express his views on referees.

Lord Sheppard's 11 years at the top of Grand Metropolitan, the food and drinks company, have been marked by crunching takeover battles, bruising boardroom disputes and an early bath for several pretenders to the GrandMet throne.

This aggressive record resulted in Lord Sheppard acquiring the title of "toughest businessman in Britain" a few years ago, a seemingly appropriate accolade for a man who once described his leadership style as "management by a loose grip of the throat".

So it comes as some surprise to find that Lord Sheppard is not entirely at home with his blood and guts reputation. He is sensitive to accusations of toughness, preferring the word courage, and believes that the corporate mythology which surrounds his stewardship of GrandMet is misleading.

"Most people misunderstand quite dramatically the culture of Grand Metropolitan," he says. "What we have created in the company is a challenge culture. We take it for granted that people challenge each other, not by issuing instructions or orders but by expressing a point of view. I suppose to the outside we can sound terribly aggressive with each other, but it is not our characters, but the culture of the business."

It was Lord Sheppard's desire to untangle the complex relationship between business leadership, corporate culture and success that led him to become involved in a project to explore the topic with Philippe de Backer and Charles Farkas, of Bain & Co, the US consultancy. *Maximum Leadership*, the product of two years of interviews with 160 leading executives worldwide, was published this week.

The authors conclude that there are five main types of business leadership, ranging from a strategic approach — where the chief executive concentrates on the big questions of where the company should be — to the "box" approach — where a tight set of rules and systems are established.

They even detect that certain sectors require one particular style: banks, for instance, tend to use the box approach because of the risk-management nature of the business. But the overriding message of *Maximum Leadership* is that leadership must be served *à la carte* — not as a set menu.

"After more than 40 years in business, I have come to the conclusion that management is much an art as a science," says Lord Sheppard. "It is as much about sensing as it is about knowing."

Lord Sheppard, alluding to his own rise from humble East End origins to head of a multinational, concludes that good leadership is predominantly a triumph of nurture over nature. Of the interview subjects, he says: "Some may have been born to be leaders but most of them weren't."

No matter what leadership style the chief executive adopts, it will be ineffective without the ability to reform even the most ingrained corporate culture without removing large numbers of personnel.

"When we took over Pillsbury at the end of the 1980s, it had a very anti-risk mentality and worked on the basis that to succeed you kept your head down," explains Lord Sheppard. "We talked about wanting them to fail, to be risk takers. Within three years, the company became the top product developer in America. We did this not by changing people's characters, but by changing the company culture through training.

"Maybe we ought to write a sequel about the value of business leadership to society. The degree of community involvement we discovered is not in the book, because we concentrated on how leadership adds value to the company. But there is no way to run a modern company without being involved in the community," he says.

As if to demonstrate this point, the authors are donating part of the proceeds from *Maximum Leadership* to the Prince's Youth Business Trust, one of several charitable projects with which Lord Sheppard is involved.

Associated British Foods

The Chairman reports on a year of progress

Sales increased by 9 per cent and profits before tax by 16 per cent.

Expenditure on new assets and subsidiaries amounted to £355 million. A major acquisition at the end of the year was a leading speciality oils and fats based food ingredients group in the United States.

A bonus issue of ordinary shares is proposed. The second interim dividend will be paid on the increased share capital, and is a 9.4 per cent increase on the previous year.

Summary of results	1995 £ million	1994 £ million
Turnover	4,894	4,478
Profit before tax	375	324
Shareholders' funds	2,258	2,090
Dividends per share (on the increased number of shares)	8.75p	8.00p

The above are extracts from the Annual Report and Accounts 1995 sent to shareholders on 15th November 1995.

Associated British Foods plc,
Weston Centre, 68 Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7LQ, England.

Life premiums jump vindicates Group Victoire takeover

CU French connection pays off

By Marianne Curphey


Carter: UK concern

COMMERCIAL Union's purchase of Group Victoire, the French insurer, was vindicated yesterday when Britain's largest insurance composite reported a huge third-quarter increase in life premiums from France.

But CU gave warning that the industry was still extremely competitive, especially in Britain. John Carter, chief executive, said: "Conditions for writing new annual premium business remain difficult in a number of markets, including the UK, reflecting the unwillingness of consumers to enter into long-term savings commitments."

Figures for the nine months to September 30 showed that life premium income from France jumped from £229 million to £1.3 billion this year, almost equalling the entire worldwide life premium income for the same 1994 period.

France contributed £358 million life premium income for July to September, an increase of 347 per cent on the same three-month period last year.

Abeille Vie, the life company within Group Victoire, contributed more than £1 billion and helped to double worldwide life premiums to £2.6 billion compared with £1.3 billion in the first three quarters of 1994. Group Victoire has been a subsidiary since September 1994 when CU bought it for Fr12.3 billion and its results were consolidated for the first time in the fourth quarter of 1994.

Worldwide, pre-tax profit from life operations rose to £164 million (£105 million) out of an overall pre-tax profit of £381 million (£327 million).

The rise in pre-tax profit came despite a £12 million provison for transferring CU's direct salesforce in the UK to Abbey Life. The salesforce contributed less than ten per cent of new business. CU will now sell through independent advisers and tied agents.

Large contributions to the life division's profits also came from the UK and from the Delta Lloyd, the Dutch life subsidiary. UK general insurance premium business was 11 per cent lower, reflecting the competitive rating environment and CU's decision to put greater emphasis on profits rather than market share.

Premiums from general insurance jumped from £3.2 billion to £3.7 billion in the nine months. Despite competition and subsidence claims in the UK, which cost £16 million more than in the same quarter last year, general insurance profits increased by £83 million to £365 million.

Over half of all trading profits arose outside the UK, with strong performance in general insurance from France, The Netherlands, Belgium and South Africa. In the US, profits from general insurance for the nine months amounted to £38 million (£35 million), though catastrophe claims were £6 million highter in the third quarter compared with last year.

Earnings per share were 38.9p (43.2p). Earnings for 1994 were restated. CU shares ended 7p better at 605p.

Dawson hit by warm weather

By Christine Buckley

WARMER weather and a jump in raw material costs have shrunk the pre-tax profits of Dawson International, the knitwear group that owns Pringle.

Dawson blamed this year's exceptionally high temperatures, which have generally kept people out of woollens. A better climate has particularly hit the tourist business in London, which is a crucial market for Pringle's traditional lines.

Throughout the year, Dawson has pulled out of selling its Pringle ranges directly, having franchised its outlets in the UK. It has closed four stores in Germany, franchised another four and is looking to dispose its remaining one.

In the six months to September 30, group pre-tax profits plunged 43 per cent to £9 million from the same period in 1994, and the group gave warning about current trading conditions and prospects for the second half. Derek Finlay, chairman, said: "I do not expect to see a sustained upturn until our next financial year."

He said the difficult markets for winter garments had persisted into last month and the first part of this month.

The interim dividend, payable on January 10, was maintained at 1.5p.


DES JENSON
Peter Williams, chairman, left, and Martin Lamaison, finance director, said strong exports helped Oxford Instruments to a 15.5 per cent rise in half-year profits to £9 million. The dividend, up 11 per cent to 1.9p, will be paid on March 26.

GA wins Provident Mutual vote

By Caroline Merrell

PROVIDENT MUTUAL policyholders have voted overwhelmingly in favour of the takeover by General Accident, in spite of an acrimonious meeting yesterday, where members accused the board of selling out at too low a price.

Just over 47,000 of the 200,000 members voted with 97 per cent in favour. Provident Mutual has about 500,000 policyholders. GA will pay £170 million to buy the company, which has funds under management of £7 billion. Of this, £145 million will be paid into the Provident Mutual fund, while the rest will be used to pay a special bonus of £25 million to policyholders over three years, an average of £100 per member.

Provident Mutual was forced to seek a company to take it over because of falling business, rising compliance costs and a low free-asset ratio. In exchange for the cash injection, GA obtains a right to 10 per cent of future profits from Provident Mutual, which will effectively become a closed fund within GA. Provident Mutual said that if it had not accepted the GA deal, it would have cost the company £20 million to stay in business.

Pub chains aim for the market

By Alasdair Murray

THE rush of independent pub operators to the market continued yesterday when Century Inns launched its second flotation attempt, while Tom Cobleigh, a rival chain, set an offer price of 150p a share, valuing the company at £60 million.

Earlier plans by Century to float were halted by an Office of Fair Trading investigation into wholesale beer prices, then delayed by the flotation of Enterprise Inns, another rival.

The failed float knocked £1 million from the year-end profits, which fell 12 per cent to £4.9 million, yesterday's figures showed. Operating profits were slightly up to £8.7 million.

Century is aiming to raise about £30 million from the float, valuing the company at £55 million. It will use the funds to repay £11 million of debt and continue an expansion programme, building up to about 500 pubs over the next few years. Pricing is expected on December 5.

Century owns 316 largely freehold pubs in Yorkshire and the North East, with an estate valued at £56.1 million. Tom Cobleigh has 46 outlets in Yorkshire and the east Midlands and concentrates on food sales, which supply about a third of turnover.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Employees' perks tot up to £69bn

BRITISH businesses provide their employees with about £69 billion worth of benefits every year, according to a survey by Mintel for IFA Promotions, the organisation that represents independent financial advisers.

Pension (£20.96 billion) and social security contributions (£23.86 billion) together account for close to two-thirds of the total. Perks, such as cars, loans, luncheon vouchers, and subsidised catering, represent £16.24 million of the total. The survey notes that the provision of such perks — "benefits in kind" — has increased 260 per cent over a ten-year period. Pension contributions, by contrast, have risen by just 77 per cent.

'Angel' investment rises

BUSINESS "angels" have more than doubled the amount of money they are investing in the corporate stars of tomorrow to top £16 million. The majority of investors put up £50,000 or less. Figures published yesterday by the British Venture Capital Association (BVCA) show that more than £35 million was invested in the venture capital sector last year, with 176 successful investments in 173 companies being made by some 330 angels as opposed to professional City fund managers.

US output falls 0.3%

PRODUCTION from US mines, factories and utilities fell in October for the first time in six months, the Federal Reserve said yesterday, giving more evidence that the economy was slowing. Industrial output fell 0.3 per cent last month — the first decline since April and a sharper drop than anticipated by private economists — with broad declines in all main industry groups. Industry ran at 83.6 per cent of capacity in October, down from a revised 84.1 per cent in September.

Gold demand grows

WORLDWIDE demand for gold in countries where the World Gold Council gathers information is heading for a record in 1995. In the first nine months, gold offtake in the form of jewellery, bars, coins or dental alloys, is 16 per cent higher. Year-to-date demand in developing-nation markets is 17 per cent up, at 1,355 tonnes, and in developed-nation markets is 15 per cent up, at 687 tonnes. Helen Junz, of the WGC, said 1995 will be "an absolutely banner year for gold demand".

Optimism at VTR

VTR, the post-production specialist for the television industry, which acquired Portman Entertainment Group in September, announced pre-tax profits of £1.5 million for the year to August 31, an 11.8 per cent improvement on last year (£1.3 million). Philip Lovegrove, chairman, said he was confident about the future. Last year's success was achieved despite significant disruption incurred by the relocation of a subsidiary, Blue Post Production. A final dividend of 2.8p, up 10 per cent, will be paid on December 29.

Trust's assets up 6.4%

NET asset value at Foreign & Colonial Income Growth Investment Trust increased by 6.4 per cent to 101.7p in the six months to September 30, but the trust said performance was hit by having avoided high-technology companies and by investing "too much too soon" in depressed sectors such as building materials and diversified industrials. The second interim dividend has been increased by 7.1 per cent to 1.5p, due on December 29. The trust plans to pay a total for the current financial year of 3.4p, up 4.6 per cent on last year.

ACCOUNTANCY

An end to the tick and bash

Jonathan Burnett views a report on the use of internal auditors

The average internal auditor is a 40-year-old male with a finance and accounting background who has been working in his internal audit (IA) department for more than four years. He spends 45 per cent of his time in his office and when he is out in the field he spends his time reviewing files, interviewing people and observing.

This is the picture of internal auditors painted by the first part of *Internal Auditing Around The World* — a two-part survey into the status of IA conducted jointly by the French Institute of Internal Auditors and Consultants (Ifaci) and Arthur Andersen, the accountant. The survey was carried out in ten countries (Argentina, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Morocco, Spain, the UK and the US) and the results are based on responses from more than 1,300 companies employing more than 22,000 internal auditors.

The survey goes on to say that 40 per cent of IA departments believe that they do not have the skills to operate effectively, especially in the field of information systems. This statistic sits uncomfortably with another: that the objective of most companies is to develop an experienced, lasting team of auditors rather than use IA as a training ground for future top managers.

This dull image of tick and bash auditors, struggling with inappropriate skills to enforce internal regulations has to end. Initernal auditors should not be a burden to management within their organisation but should use their unique position to help their internal customers manage risk and run their businesses more effectively and efficiently.

Indeed, the second part of the survey captures the conclusions of not only IA directors but also finance directors and other customers on their expectations of internal audits. Though the primary objective of IA is seen as helping a company manage risks and safeguard assets, companies expect their IA function to look for improvements in productivity, to help with change and to facilitate communication between different parts of an organisation to encourage the sharing of best practice.

The survey goes on to say that while management recognises IA's expertise in internal control, auditors are still faced with three barriers to giving their customers good service: First, they are often held back by technical barriers or internal politics; second, their reputation is one of lacking credibility and being general management's stick; and third, internal auditors are poor at demonstrating to their customers what they do, how successful they are and the benefits to their customers.


Jonathan Burnett wants internal auditors better employed

The best companies in the world are addressing these three perceived weaknesses using an innovative approach to risk management: self assessment. By positioning themselves as skilled facilitators, internal auditors can help their customers to identify their own risks, help them to identify the best ways of controlling their risks and help them to recognise opportunities for improving their business processes. In this way, customers will begin to take responsibility for controlling their risks, leaving internal auditors to be what customers want them to be — independent consultants on business processes and control.

By facilitating their customers in this way, internal auditors will be able to demonstrate their value directly to their customers. They will be seen as being objective and independent, and will know which skills they require to meet their customers needs, skills they may find elsewhere within their organisation.

The survey concludes customers would be better served if internal auditors were skilled at organising workshops and brainstorming sessions, benchmarking customers against best practices within and without their organisation while keeping independent and not taking on the responsibilities of their customers.

This future is a long way from the tick and bash image that hangs over many of the world's internal auditors.

Jonathan Burnett is senior manager internal audit at Arthur Andersen

The great escape — well almost

THE English ICA (Institute of Chartered Accountants) hierarchy was profoundly shocked last week. The Auditing Practices Board, which the institute thought it had safely under lock and key at its Moorgate Place headquarters, was discovered tunnelling its way to freedom en masse.

Utter fury ensued, followed immediately by a cover-up. In pursuit, deputy president Brian Currie was seen furiously filling the tunnel in and denying there had been any attempted breakout.

I exaggerate, but not much. We are back to the old saga of why the APB is hamstrung by being stuck under the control of the accountancy bodies rather than being free and independent like the enormously successful Accounting Standards Board.

Last week, leaders of the six main UK accounting bodies met under the aegis of their consultative committee of accountancy bodies umbrella group and received an excellent and carefully argued report entitled *APB Operations Review*. This was due to be published after the meeting.

Instead, there was an enormous row, mostly fuelled by Brian Currie, and the report — which dared to suggest independence — has been suppressed. Fortunately, I have a copy and can tell you just how worrying the English institute must find it.

To understand the furore, you have to understand just how defensive the English institute is about its position. It fears that with its financial reporting role now triumphantly taken up by the ASB, it has to cling to whatever is left. And what is left is the APB. It feels that to let the setting of auditing standards move away from its control would be the end of its position as a truly accountable auditing body.

This is nonsense of course. But it is the way the institute thinks. In fact, the success of the independent ASB has brought great credit to the rather beleaguered accounting profession. The fact that it is generally seen to be getting things right at a time when the profession's reputation is low should be applauded by the institute. And, more important, the institute should understand why this is so. Put simply, it is because it is independent, free of the accountancy bodies' bickering, and is led by someone with a very clear idea of what should be done and how to do it. It is like a child moving out into the adult world and finding its feet and maturity. That is precisely what the APB now seeks to do. And why the institute is so reluctant to let it.

The report is blunt: "Board members believe strongly that, despite the involvement of the non-practitioners on the board, the board is too closely identified with the accountancy bodies and/or the major accounting firms," it says. "The board does not believe there to be any substance in this but accepts that this perception is reinforced by the present location of the APB secretariat within Moorgate Place and the arrangements whereby the staff of APB are employees of the English ICA. Members of the board believe strongly that the APB staff should be completely independent of any of the accountancy bodies, and any changes as a result of this operating review need to recognise this."

The accountancy bodies have no answer to that. They know in their heart of hearts that an independent APB would bring credit to the profession for its work. Instead, the English ICA has set up an auditing faculty which inevitably overlaps some of the APB territory and also snipes at the APB's work.


ROBERT BRUCE

The report makes this clear. "One benefit of the board taking the leading role in the development of auditing practice," it says, "is that it avoids the potential conflicts inherent in having a profession divided between six or more accountancy bodies in the UK and the Republic of Ireland. The board is in a position both to issue standards that are applicable to all involved in auditing and to act as a single widely acknowledged spokesman on good auditing practice."

This is precisely what the English ICA fears. The report suggests that areas of ethical guidance relating to auditing should come under its aegis rather than the combined accountancy bodies. The very idea of the board's independence also scuppers the hugely confused plans the English ICA has for audit regulation.

It is time the English ICA accepted the inevitable: that the APB should be independent. It must also accept that the only arguments it is putting forward to retain control of the APB are more to do with internal politics than the public interest.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Beam me up Talbot

ARTHUR ANDERSEN boldly went last Friday evening. Its European corporate finance division took over the Science Museum and the current *Star Trek* exhibition for a contacts party. There was food from umpteen European countries but the real point was the *Star Trek* exhibition and the cream of corporate finance could be found examining Klingon costumes. The star turn was John Talbot, Andersen's European corporate finance chief. He wore a lurid tie depicting the most recent captain of the Starship Enterprise. The bald head of actor Patrick Stewart perfectly echoing Talbot's . Clearly intellect shining through.

Rent reviewed

THE English ICA is obviously charging an exorbitant rent to its illustrious tenant, the Auditing Practices Board. In the section of the latest APB report that reviews its finances, it considers the costs of moving its offices elsewhere. "Given the current state of the central London property market, this is considered unlikely to cause any increase in cost over the current level", it states.

Double trouble

COOPERS & LYBRAND'S turmoil at Embankment Place is as nothing to what is happening in Dubai. According to this morning's issue of *Accountancy Age*, Cooper's extremely lucrative office out in the Gulf has been cleft in twain. Or rather two warring factions of partners have set up in opposition after an enormous bust-up. Both are operating from the same address and under the same name — Coopers & Lybrand International. The only difference is that one set of partners is on the seventeenth floor and the other is on the nineteenth floor. Clients are understood to be confused.

Kao's theory

EXPECT more music in the quiet corridors of Arthur Andersen. One of the leading speakers at last week's Management Summit '95, which the firm sponsored, was one John Kao, a creativity expert at Harvard Business School. His thesis was that successful management needed to behave like jazz musicians in a jam session.

ROBERT BRUCE

هكذا من الاصل

What shape is your business in?

Our view that every successful organisation can be described in terms of its people, its processes and its technology, helping them to work together more effectively.

Because it's a model common with problem busters, that's what it takes to succeed in business.

ANDERSEN CONSULTING

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Gridland Amer	187.40	196.30†	– 1.40	0.35
Gridland Equity	283.70	280.50	– 0.10	2.17
Gridland Euro	234.70	248.40	+ 1.30	1.19
Gridland Eqst Bal	121.70	125.10		1.11
Gridland Gld	76.31	77.64	+ 0.16	6.19
Gridland Japan	163.20	172.70†	+ 0.20	

AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS
01200 553 231

General Acc	691.69	642.10	+ 2.60	2.69
General Inc	516.90	545.80	+ 2.20	2.90
UK Growth Acc	408.10	434.30†	+ 2.00	2.91
UK Growth Inc	271.80	289.30†	+ 1.20	2.91
Higher Inc Acc	752.50	801.30†	+ 2.80	4.16
Higher Inc Inc	419.20	446.00†	+ 1.80	4.16
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	202.70	214.10	+ 0.60	5.64
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	93.20	98.44	+ 0.35	5.64
Nth American	331.10	352.30†	+ 4.20	
Europe	312.90	332.90	+ 2.80	0.88
Intl Equity	81.73	86.95†	+ 0.28	3.00
Int Fixed/Int Acc	109.80	116.90	+ 0.20	4.77
Int Fixed/Int Inc	76.92	81.82	+ 0.18	4.77
Global Opps	91.97	97.74†	– 0.04	0.20
Balanced Acc	56.16	62.52†	+ 0.15	2.99
Balanced Inc	56.24	59.83†	+ 0.16	2.99
Japan Acc	43.64	46.43†	+ 0.02	
Pac Basin Acc	357.90	380.80†	– 1.70	1.05

ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS
0345 717 373

High Income				
Gilts & Fixed Int	130.70	138.70	+ 0.20	7.21
High Inc Equity	173.00	183.60†	+ 0.10	4.25
Worldwide Bond	288.80	306.60†	+ 1.40	4.58
Capital Growth				
American Growth	326.00	346.70	– 5.80	0.36
Asian Pacific	290.50	310.70	– 0.10	
Abbey Income & Earnings	284.30	302.40†	– 0.10	3.83
Country & Eastern	111.40	119.10	– 0.20	
Euro Capital Inc	147.50	157.80	+ 0.70	0.61
<to> Accum	158.30	168.30	+ 0.80	0.61
General	256.70	273.30	– 0.30	3.05
Japan	114.20	122.10	– 0.10	
Maidenhead	147.30	157.50		1.50
US Emerging Cos	172.00	183.90	– 3.40	
Ethical	72.55	77.18	+ 0.14	2.69
International	120.30	128.00	+ 0.20	0.71
Dividend & Growth	65.08	69.23	+ 0.08	4.05
Global Gwth & Sec	69.80	74.52	+ 0.01	2.84

ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0131 220 0733

UK Small Cos	1957.00	2034.00		

ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0800 833 388

Amer Inc & Growth	52.17	54.18†	– 0.50	0.57
Cash	90.47	96.47	+ 0.01	5.79
Emerging Mkts	80.34	85.64	– 0.54	0.15
European	126.30	134.10	+ 1.20	
Finance	1008.50	1078.10†	+ 2.80	1.73
Extra Income #	48.76	52.13	+ 0.07	6.52
Far East Emg Eco	110.80	117.70	– 0.80	0.53
Fixed Interest #	22.54	24.09†	+ 0.03	9.76
Fund Inv Tst	163.10	171.60†	+ 0.10	5.07
Japan	177.40	188.90	– 0.50	
Latin American	41.96	44.60	– 0.50	1.11
Pacific	74.81	79.22	– 0.34	0.33
Property Share	61.22	64.36	– 0.64	0.15
UK Emerging Cos	68.99	72.74	– 0.07	1.70
UK Growth	48.04	50.89†	+ 0.20	3.31
Abtr World Port #	76.02	77.45†	– 0.01	0.12
Ethical	71.73	74.22	+ 0.25	2.37
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	50.87	50.87	– 0.07	7.38

AEGON UNIT TRUSTS LTD
0131 549 9222

Select Portfolio	93.33	99.26†	– 0.23	

AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0171 256 5858

Retail Property	97.50	104.00		5.28

ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD
01452 305 958

Annty Income	69.66	65.79	+ 0.19	2.89
Income Builder Inc	75.23	80.03	+ 0.11	2.71

ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC
IFA dlg: 01793 610 366 Client dlg: 01793 514 514

Balanced Trusts				
Growth & Income	254.00	271.50†	+ 1.70	2.87
Capital	450.20	481.20†	+ 3.80	1.72
Balanced	748.50	800.10	+ 4.90	2.49
Accumulator	1411.00	1508.00†	+ 10.00	2.69
Income Trusts				
American Income	54.54	58.30	+ 0.20	3.05
High Income	417.00	445.70	+ 1.70	3.46
Equity Income	314.70	336.80	+ 1.00	3.32
High Yield	253.60	271.00†	+ 1.10	3.21
Govt Securities	33.84	35.72†	+ 0.04	5.84
International Trusts				
Allied Spec Sits	179.10	191.40	– 0.60	0.37
European Growth	42.37	45.80	+ 0.43	0.61
International	170.40	182.20†	+ 0.60	0.18
Japan	187.80	199.70	– 0.50	0.01
Pacific	358.80	384.20	– 1.00	0.01
Secs of America	507.70	541.00†	– 3.90	0.43
Wrldwd Asset Val	50.30	53.77	+ 0.15	0.22
Specialist Trusts				
Allied Value	567.40	606.50	+ 3.00	2.10
Conv & Gvt	44.29	47.34	– 0.05	4.90
Smaller Cos	169.10	262.10†	+ 0.30	1.10
2nd Smaller Cos	178.90	191.20	+ 0.20	1.27
Recovery	149.40	159.70†	+ 2.90	1.64
Mat Mkts & Cdty	161.50	172.70†	+ 0.70	0.89
Overs Earnings	376.00	404.00	+ 2.40	1.57
Technology	207.70	222.00†	+ 3.70	0.01
UK Special Sits	518.20	553.90†	+ 3.50	1.56

B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
01293 526 911

Cnvrsn Dist Pens	107.20	111.30		3.84
Founder Pens Pens	64.90	67.42		1.44

BSI-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 600 0033

Capital	74.52	79.28	– 0.11	1.83
International	65.29	69.46	+ 1.58	

BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD
0131 222 4242

America	264.09	305.00	– 1.70	
Bond	117.00	123.10†		6.60
Brit Strat Cos	106.90	115.90	– 0.20	1.70
Cons & Gen #	58.00	73.19†	+ 0.05	5.36
Europe	232.10	246.80†	+ 1.40	0.64
Euro Smlr Cos	104.80	111.80†	+ 0.70	0.63
Income Gwth	372.40	396.20	+ 0.60	3.86
Japan	305.20	325.00†	– 0.80	
Latin American	60.35	64.20	– 0.41	
Pacific	100.00	106.40	+ 0.10	1.32
UK Smlr Cos	58.40	62.13	+ 0.12	1.31
Japan Fd	849.90	870.30	– 2.50	
Mngd Fd	186.70	198.20†	+ 0.20	3.00

BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD
0171 488 8673

Brit & Overs	335.80	342.80	+ 1.30	0.84
Capital Gwth	117.50	123.70	+ 0.30	2.65
Wrldwd Opps	198.70	209.20	+ 0.50	0.96

BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD
0181 534 5544

Balanced Trusts				
Bal Inv Fd Inc	375.90	391.50†	+ 1.20	2.66
Blenpoint Bd Inc	94.66	98.01	+ 0.33	6.84
Exempt	75.28	80.27†	+ 0.04	4.22
Financial	89.23	95.43	– 0.15	2.58
500	465.50	503.20		1.76
General	388.30	398.80	+ 0.80	2.65
Property	243.60	261.40		6.56
Trustee	204.80	218.50	+ 0.70	2.31
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	100.60	100.60†	+ 0.10	5.53
Extra Income #	125.40	134.10†	+ 0.20	5.02
Gilt & Fxd Int	98.46	98.44	+ 0.09	6.26
Income	554.00	592.50†	+ 0.10	3.63
Income Builder #	82.50	88.20†	+ 0.20	5.97
Ind Income	65.87	70.06	+ 0.01	3.25
Growth Trusts - UK				
Capital	128.00	136.50	+ 0.30	2.34
Leisure	145.50	155.70	+ 0.40	1.91
Recovery	4326.10	4629.60	+ 9.50	2.71
Smlr Cos Inc	47.58	50.93	– 0.07	2.25
Special Sits	326.00	348.70	+ 0.30	1.48
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	152.10	161.80†	– 1.20	0.29
Asst Acc	254.30	271.90	+ 2.50	2.20
Asst Inc	155.10	165.80	– 1.60	2.20
Euro Gwth Inc	163.00	172.90	+ 0.60	0.76
<to> Accum	179.00	189.80	+ 0.70	0.76
Japan & Gen Inc	154.60	163.70	– 0.60	
<to> Accum	156.40	165.60	– 0.60	
Japan Spec Sits	71.41	75.64	– 0.41	
Unv Tech Inc	88.69	94.56	– 0.98	
Worldwide	179.50	186.80		0.59

BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD
0171 214 1800

American Growth	111.50	118.00	– 1.60	
Amer Smlr Cos	152.30	163.10	– 2.20	
Convertibles	53.40	57.27	+ 0.09	5.70
Eastern	263.10	285.00	– 1.50	0.30
Equity Income	87.67	94.20†	+ 0.06	4.10
European Growth	325.10	344.90	+ 2.80	0.80
Europe	259.70	286.30	– 1.30	0.20
German Growth	79.36	84.10	+ 0.48	0.50
Global Bond	92.58	71.18	+ 0.18	6.50
Global Growth	135.50	144.30	+ 0.20	
Japan Growth	193.60	206.20	– 1.00	
Japan Smaller	148.60	157.40		
Mutual Trust	75.78	82.75	– 1.75	
Portfolio	135.20	144.70	+ 0.40	2.30
<to> Accum	251.80	269.50	+ 0.70	2.30
UK Growth	86.53	92.71	+ 0.52	2.70
UK Smaller Cos	92.91	99.31†	+ 0.07	2.50
Select Managers	79.61	85.46	+ 0.01	1.00

BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD
0171 250 3000

Intl Equity Port Inc	85.23	87.48		
Special Opport Inc	55.85	59.41		

BRITANNIA LIFE UNIT MGRS LTD
0141 223 8000

Balanced Growth	119.62	126.79†	+ 0.23	1.54
<to> Accum	137.10	145.08	+ 0.26	1.54
Smaller Cos	121.54	128.61†	+ 0.28	0.79
Higher Yield #	49.50	52.36†	+ 0.14	4.30
American Gth Inc	91.36	96.69	– 1.11	
European Growth	149.00	154.48	– 0.35	0.62
<to> Accum	149.67	157.54	– 0.36	0.62
Global Bond Inc #	27.04	28.62†	– 0.02	7.17
Mngd Pnsns Inc	45.13	47.74†	– 0.05	1.46
<to> Accum	45.29	48.05	– 0.05	1.46
Ind Sects Opps	128.65	136.13	– 0.13	0.67
Pacific Gth	125.48	132.78	– 0.48	0.35
UK General #	83.23	88.07	+ 0.15	3.17
<to> Accum #	86.89	91.74	+ 0.15	3.17
Japan	58.63	59.92	– 0.26	
Gilt & Fixed Int #	98.03	102.63†	– 1.28	8.59

BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD
0171 480 7216

Short Dated Gilt	66.87	67.73	+ 0.09	6.27

CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD
0161 832 5060

Envsn	167.90	178.70	– 0.30	1.75
UK Growth	184.70	196.50	+ 0.40	2.11
UK Income	137.80	146.60†	+ 0.20	4.43

CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD
01707 822 100

Can Gen Dist	210.00	222.60	+ 0.40	1.78
<to> Income Dis	113.00	119.80	+ 0.30	4.17
<to> Accum	358.80	377.20	+ 0.80	4.17
Gilt & Fxd Int	41.44	43.93	+ 0.14	6.19
Growth Units	222.60	238.10	– 0.30	2.12
Bond	174.10	183.30	+ 0.30	6.42
Intl Growth	221.90	236.10	– 0.60	0.46
North American	237.10	252.20	+ 1.80	0.32
Far East	203.10	202.10	– 0.80	1.15
UK Smaller Cos	194.40	207.90	+ 0.10	1.56
Euroblast	88.47	94.06	+ 0.50	0.70
Japanese Growth	44.83	47.61	+ 0.28	
High Income	199.50	213.40†	+ 0.30	4.05

CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD
0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7456

American & Gen	180.10	191.60	– 1.60	
Eurogenic Inc	85.03	90.00	– 0.68	1.16
Smaller Cos (4-1)	91.92	97.79	– 0.01	1.57
Growth	472.40	502.60	+ 1.10	1.97
Income & Growth #	453.20	468.90	+ 3.90	3.90
<to> Accum #	631.00	671.30	+ 5.40	3.90
Japan & Gen	84.67	88.64	+ 0.23	
Master Portfolio	£107.71	£111.90†	+ 27.00	2.33
<to> Accum	£130.60	£134.95	+ 33.00	2.33
Special Sits	109.80	116.90	– 0.40	1.97
High Yield	£79.82	£84.25†	– 5.00	4.42

CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
0171 606 0708

Cazenove Portfolio	91.62	97.89	+ 0.20	2.62
American Portfolio	107.50	114.21	+ 0.30	0.98
European Portfolio	109.25	116.55	+ 0.75	0.48
High Income	51.05	51.15†	+ 0.08	9.00
Japanese Portfolio	82.75	87.80	– 0.20	
Pacific Portfolio	135.89	147.20	– 0.42	1.51
UK Inc & Growth	84.51	90.61	+ 0.13	3.14
Utility & Bond	57.04	57.72	– 0.02	6.83

CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG
0171 898 1819

Inv Fund	711.66	722.42		4.40
Fxd Int Sec	156.21	156.83		9.16

CCF CHARITY FUNDS
0171 588 1815

Investment Inc	288.66	289.22		4.50
Investment Acc	330.76	331.23		
Fixed Int Inc	126.55	127.08		9.05
Fixed Int Acc	210.57	211.41		

CHARTERED ASSET MGMT LTD
0171 897 7997

Intl Growth	117.35	129.72		4.40
UK Income	116.56	126.00		6.33

CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD
0171 407 5999

Beckman Intl	89.06	94.06†	+ 1.31	3.16
Bkdt Blo-Tech	37.48	41.21		
Acorn Ethical Tst	159.17	167.14		0.74
City Fin Assets	73.13	76.79†		2.12
City Fin American	97.88	102.57	+ 2.04	
City Fin Intl	83.40	87.58†	+ 0.39	1.36
City Fin Japan	143.05	150.22	+ 1.93	
Fidelio Fin Cap	279.77	303.29		2.47
Friars Hse Inc	198.59	206.66†		4.61
Stockley Wrld Gth	133.43	141.43	+ 0.64	
Talisman Cap Gth	138.61	145.91†		
Talismanint Ind	146.83	154.56†		
J Std Int/Eth Inc	56.56	59.39		2

CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01227 227 300
Emerging Markets 53.68 56.98 – 0.19

CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD
0800 373 393

American Gwth	73.79	78.82	– 1.04	
Allied Mega Gwth ‡				
Dragon Growth	63.76	68.21	– 0.36	1.06
Equity High Inc	86.38	92.53	+ 0.29	4.15
<to> Accum	119.80	128.17	+ 0.41	4.15
Extra Income Inc	35.29	37.67	+ 0.02	7.49
Extra Income Acc	37.36	39.80	+ 0.03	7.49
European Gwth	56.49	60.10	+ 0.44	1.18
Evergreen	27.90	29.41	+ 0.02	
General Equity	91.31	98.08	+ 0.25	3.08
Income Growth	47.75	51.07	+ 0.13	
Pedigree Gwth	55.31	59.43	+ 0.22	2.91
Pref Sts Cos Inc	32.61	34.69†	+ 0.05	1.73
Pref Sts Cos Acc	34.33	36.52	+ 0.04	1.54
Retirement Inc #	25.28	28.29	+ 0.12	5.85
Special Sits	41.64	44.30	+ 0.03	2.22
UK & Overseas	52.27	55.61	– 0.04	0.86

COLONIAL UT MGRS LTD
01634 898 000

Capital	73.39	76.30	+ 0.47	1.99
Balanced	64.13	66.70	+ 0.21	4.21

COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD
0181 686 9818
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)

Income Funds				
Equity Inc	167.93	178.65†	+ 2.02	4.99
Fixed & Convertible	39.82	42.36†	+ 0.14	6.66
Monthly Inc Plus	48.65	51.75	+ 0.13	6.66
Preference Share	45.64	48.55†	+ 0.09	8.03
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	127.35	135.48†	+ 1.22	6.00
Managed Fund	71.76	75.81†	+ 0.11	3.10
UK Growth Funds				
Special Sit Cos	41.88	44.56	+ 0.03	1.82
<to> Accum	48.76	51.87	+ 0.03	1.82
UK & General	85.07	91.56†	– 0.90	2.79
<to> Accum	110.46	117.51†	– 1.15	2.79
UK Growth	160.23	170.46	+ 0.15	2.37
International Growth Funds				
European Growth	194.71	207.14	+ 1.46	0.12
Far Eastern Gth	122.68	130.51	– 0.40	
Global Bond	83.97	88.26†	+ 0.40	5.99
Japan Growth	110.17	117.20	– 0.21	
Worldwide Growth	67.48	71.79†	– 0.26	0.11
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	91.95	91.95†	+ 0.01	6.11
Managed Pen Fund	84.32	89.70	+ 0.16	1.66
Quilter Fund	141.82	150.87	+ 0.65	2.82

CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD
0171 407 5995

Consistent UT	32.41	34.68		3.45

COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD
0800 535 358

Growth	168.80	179.70†	+ 0.20	1.89
Income	71.07	75.61	+ 0.09	3.62
European	84.83	88.57	+ 0.49	1.04
Recovery	168.60	179.40	+ 0.10	2.16

CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD
0171 393 9494

Equity Dist	882.69	899.60		3.58

CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD
01277 690 370

Fellowship Tst	90.39	96.15†	+ 0.51	1.56
Income #	259.20	275.70†	+ 1.40	4.38
<to> Account #	664.60	707.00†	+ 3.60	4.28
Smaller Cos	163.60	269.90	+ 0.70	1.00
<to> Accum	239.20	254.40	+ 0.90	1.00
Inv Portfolio	68.00	93.61	+ 0.12	1.50
High Inc Port #	75.10	80.95	+ 0.40	4.48

DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD
0171 410 0177

Euro Small Cos	1525.00	1584.80		
Japan Small Cos	1074.90	1096.30		
Uk Small Cos	1905.50	1985.80		
US Small Cos	1841.80	1881.20†		

DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS
0171 377 8919

Disc Inc	218.40	229.90†		2.88

DUNEDIN UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0131 315 2500

European Gwth	297.30	314.70	+ 2.50	0.67
New Asia	207.60	222.40†	– 0.70	0.15
Japan Growth	104.70	111.30†	– 0.50	
Jap Smlr Co	430.90	456.90	+ 1.10	
Nth Amer	327.80	345.70	– 3.20	0.64
UK Inc & Gth	229.50	240.90†	+ 1.40	2.77

EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD
01242 577 555

UK Balanced Inc	152.90	162.60	+ 0.40	1.65
UK High Inc Inc	159.70	169.80†	+ 0.20	4.24
<to> Accum	211.70	225.20†	+ 0.30	4.24
UK Pref & Fixed Inc	98.56	83.17	+ 0.05	4.96
Government Opps	91.83	97.47	– 0.07	0.96
UK Smlr Cos #	59.89	63.50	+ 0.07	0.01
Extra Income Inc	47.55	50.58	+ 0.07	15.42

EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0345 090 526

American	145.18	153.80†	– 0.38	1.14
Convertibles #	21.25	22.58		6.20
Equity Income #	139.60	142.00†	+ 0.40	3.73
Earnflow	51.77	54.84	+ 0.08	9.36
Financial	47.22	50.06†	+ 0.11	1.83
Growth & Inc #	266.60	276.90	+ 1.20	2.78
High Dist #	165.60	176.00†	+ 0.70	4.26
International	366.80	411.00	– 0.10	0.12
Int Cap Inc	95.62	102.10†	+ 0.30	2.68
Latin American	22.62	24.03	+ 0.19	
Pacific	75.21	79.91†	– 0.33	
Prof High Inc	21.40	22.74†	+ 0.01	7.26
Yokyo	212.20	225.20	+ 0.30	
UK Smaller Cos	252.40	268.20	+ 0.30	1.03

ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD
0171 242 0242

Ely Place Distrbtr Dlgs	96.35	102.51	– 0.43	1.35
Growth Acc	232.24	247.98	– 0.06	0.38
Income	576.90	613.66	– 5.65	5.22

ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD
0171 373 7261

Endurance Fd	208.49	221.70†		1.06

EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
01296 431 480

European	84.92	89.39	+ 1.23	2.01
Ethical Tst	45.11	47.48	+ 0.03	1.24
Far Eastern	285.95	301.01	+ 0.36	1.83
High Income	113.66	139.69†	+ 0.76	4.91
Ind Growth	170.61	179.96	+ 0.12	0.54
North American	128.88	135.66	+ 0.04	1.67
Pensions	126.71	133.38†	+ 0.98	3.37
Smaller Cos	87.51	91.96	+ 0.42	0.73
Special Sits	88.02	92.65	+ 0.42	2.98
1st Gl Inv Tst	180.34	189.86	+ 0.16	1.25

EVERMORE FUND MGMT LTD
0171 407 5995

Smaller Cos Inc	135.04	207.69†	– 0.47	1.36
Smaller Cos Acc	345.17	367.30†	– 0.82	1.36
Recovery	48.84	51.86	– 0.02	1.89
Recovery Acc	49.73	52.80	– 0.03	1.89

EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD
01392 412 144

Capital Growth	86.95	93.24†	– 0.04	
Fd of Inv Trsts	45.96	50.09	– 0.02	0.58
High Income #	41.07	44.01†	– 0.04	10.44
Wessex	51.17	55.62†	+ 0.10	
Zero Preference	41.77	44.32		

FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD
01273 229 707

Family Asset Tst	90.52	95.65†	+0.070	3.29
Family Income Tst	44.18	44.18†	+0.070	6.80
Family Trust	90.09	95.84†	+0.130	2.35
Unicorn Charities	261.29	277.86†	– 0.20	4.98

FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD
Deallines: Private Clients: 0800 414 181

Cash Fund				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00		5.10
Bond Funds				
Gilt & Fxd Int	37.75	37.84†	+ 0.05	7.18
Intl Bond	29.86	30.98†	+ 0.16	5.42
Income Funds				
High Income	25.00	26.29†	+ 0.06	5.49
Income Plus	118.20	125.70	+ 0.20	4.21
Asset Inc Inc	54.33	57.55†	+ 0.38	4.54
Enterprise Income	44.97	47.71	+ 0.26	2.41
Far East Inc	64.76	68.77	– 0.07	2.39
Global Convertible	25.85	26.43	– 0.02	2.75
UK Div Gth	27.36	29.10	+ 0.04	2.23
Equity Funds				
ASEAN	57.36	61.19†	– 0.13	
American	285.78	302.60†	– 3.40	
Amer Spec Sits	156.20	166.86	– 2.30	
Japan Smaller Cos	34.33	36.62	– 0.09	
European	193.00	205.30†	+ 0.30	0.66
European Opps	69.07	73.44	+ 0.43	0.15
Global Prin	27.05	28.77	– 0.18	0.78
UK Growth	104.40	111.10	+ 0.20	1.79
Growth & Inc	156.50	166.50	+ 0.40	2.81
Intl PEP	41.80	44.45	– 0.05	1.09
Japan Spec Sits	93.36	99.81	– 0.33	
Japan	177.80	188.80		
Managed Intl	311.36	330.90	– 1.10	0.45
Moneybuilder	58.12	61.80	– 0.05	
Recovery	49.53	52.67	+ 0.13	1.47
South E Asia	156.90	167.40	– 0.40	1.16
Special Sits	584.00	621.60	– 6.50	0.72
Specialist Funds				
Cash Access Units	111.79	111.79	+ 0.01	6.10

FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD
0171 814 2700

Balanced #	138.60	141.72	+ 0.10	2.31
Inc Photo #	89.16	90.77	+ 0.18	3.42
Inc Portfolio	149.00	151.58	– 0.10	1.50
Special Opps	139.20	130.80†	+ 1.20	3.55
Growth Inc	33.17	33.86†	+ 0.13	1.36
Private Portfolio	427.60	446.60	+ 3.50	1.90

FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT
Enq 0171 454 1454 Dlg 01277 291 010

European	123.20	130.50	+ 1.00	0.60
Emrg Asian	143.40	153.40†	– 1.70	
High Income	29.84	32.26†	+ 0.05	10.11
UK Growth	115.70	124.20	+ 1.10	2.47
Un Income	105.30	112.40†	– 1.10	4.43
US Smaller Cos	381.60	396.90†	– 3.70	

FOSTER & BRAITHWAITE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD
01392 412 144

Capital Growth	86.95	93.24†	– 0.04	
Fd of Inv Trsts	45.96	50.09	– 0.02	0.58
High Income #	41.07	44.01†	– 0.04	10.44
Wessex	51.17	55.62†	+ 0.10	
Zero Preference	41.77	44.32		

FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD
Enq 0171 330 9500 Dealing 0845 7735511

American Growth	70.65	75.31	– 0.75	
<to> Accum	70.65	75.31	– 0.75	
Amer Smlr Cos	589.70	630.70†	+ 7.20	
<to> Accum	592.56	644.40	– 7.30	
Capital Tst	335.80	357.10†	+ 1.80	1.49
<to> Accum	497.70	518.70†	+ 1.50	1.49
Cont Smlr Cos	58.35	62.24	+ 0.21	0.58
<to> Accum	61.57	65.68	+ 0.22	0.58
Convertible	131.50	140.30	+ 0.30	5.28
<to> Accum	272.10	290.40	+ 0.70	5.28
Emerging Markets	61.12	65.29	– 0.19	
<to> Accum	61.18	65.36	– 0.19	

هكذا من الاصل

Futures push shares higher

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1428	1215½	ABN AMRO	1420	+ 3½	4.6	10.3
579	413	Abbey Nat	566		3.4	6.5
546	466	Allied Irish	542		4.2	10.1
1090	990	Allied Irish 8	1070		4.9	9.4
1475	1255½	Bank Americas	1460		2.1	28.5
1795	1515	Bank Scotland	1765	+ 2	2.9	11.6
1475	1257½	Barclays	1470	+ 3	3.7	10.5
866	708	Bk of Ireland	865	+ 5	3.7	9.1
1515	1318	Close Bros	1500		2.7	11.8
1840½	1585½	Commerzbk	1730½	-15½	1.6	
1375	1125½	Cunningham	1140½	+ ½	6.5	
2031½	1775	Deutsche Bk	1983½	+ 6½	2.1	
1811½	1617½	Edinburgh Dunfe	1796½	+ 3½	3.7	17.1
1611	1350	First Bank P	1523	+ 15	8.4	
470	376	Gerrard Natl	460	+ 9	4.7	14.9
1553	1301	Hambros	1500	+ 9	4.7	

Failure to comply not an abuse of process

Ashworth v McKay Foods Ltd

Before Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Henry and Lord Justice Thorpe

[Judgment November 10]

Where a plaintiff had failed to comply with the automatic directions provided by Order 17, rule 11(3) of the County Court Rules (SI 1981 No 1687/L.20) but had requested a hearing date within 15 months of the date on which pleadings were deemed to have been closed, her request was not to be struck out as an abuse of the court's process.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by the defendants, McKay Foods Ltd, from Judge Batterby, who, sitting at Trowbridge County Court, had rejected their application, made on expiry of the 15-month period, to set aside the request of the plaintiff, June Ashworth, on the ground of non-compliance with Order 17, rule 11 and under the court's inherent jurisdiction for abuse of process and to strike out her action claiming damages for personal injuries.

The plaintiff had begun her action in September 1993 and under the applicable timetable pleadings were deemed to be closed in November 1993. She had failed to comply with the automatic directions by which she was bound, inter alia, to give discovery; to file a statement of special damage with her particulars of claim; to disclose expert's reports and witness statements within the prescribed time and to request a hearing date within six months of the date on which the timetable began to operate.

In December 1994, within the 15-month period, the plaintiff's solicitors wrote to the county court requesting a hearing date and expressing their understanding that the normal practice of that county court was to convene a pre-trial review where, as here, the time estimate exceeded five hours.

The county court responded by indicating that the action came within the ambit of the practice adopted in the Bath area and by giving a hearing date for that review.

Mr Timothy Otty for the defendants; Mr Nigel Hamilton, QC and Mr Mark A. Horton for the plaintiff.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS, giving the judgment of the court, said that Order 17, rules 1 to 10 governed the conduct of a pre-trial review in any action where such a review was held.

Rule 11(2) made clear that rules 1 to 10 did not apply and automatic directions did apply to an action such as the present, unless a pre-trial review was ordered pursuant to any direction given under rule 11(4)(a) and directions were then given superseding, varying or in some way displacing the prescribed automatic directions.

The object of the automatic directions regime was to stamp on the unjustifiable delay only too frequently seen in personal injury litigation and to ensure at the very least that there could be no delay beyond 15 months from the close of pleadings without the court having the opportunity to consider and give authoritative directions for the future conduct of the action.

That was so whether the action was governed by the automatic directions regime or the pre-trial review regime. Where the former regime applied it was obviously intended that the preparation of the action should proceed by logical, orderly, mutual and time-limited steps from pleading to discovery to preparation for trial to requesting a trial date within six months.

The additional nine-month period in rule 11(9) was a period of grace before the guillotine fell, but a party failing to request a hearing date within six months was in breach unless a date had been already fixed.

It was impossible on the present facts to hold that the plaintiff had substantially complied with the rules. The conduct of her action was plainly such as to frustrate the beneficial objects which those who framed the rules had intended to achieve. But was it an abuse of the process?

Having referred to *Ashmore v British Coal Corporation* ([1990] 2 QB 338); *Culbert v Stephen G. Westwell & Co Ltd* ([1993] PIQR P54) and *Teale v McKay* ([1994] PIQR P508), the court considered that where a plaintiff could be shown to have acted in wilful or contumacious disregard of the rules or in bad faith or for ulterior reasons, it might be possible to establish an abuse of the process.

However, the court would not accept that in a case governed by Order 17, rule 11 mere failure to comply with the rules, without more, could amount to an abuse of process because:

1 A 15-month limit, applicable in virtually every case, had been applied to the possible period of delay; and

2 It could not have been intended that the court should have had repeatedly to investigate, where there had been compliance with rule 11(3)(d) within the 15-month period, the reasons underlying earlier failure to comply with the time limits for complying with automatic directions.

The second question on the appeal concerned the effect, if any, of the local practice of ordering a pre-trial review on receipt of a request to fix a hearing date in certain classes of case.

It was plain that in an action to which Order 17, rule 11 applied, the parties were bound to comply with the automatic directions laid down by rule 11(3) unless the court of its own motion or on application of any party, gave further or different directions or orders under rule 11(4)(a).

The adoption of the local practice could not of itself amount to an order that a pre-trial review should be held, although the court accepted that the notice sent to the parties amounted to the making of such an order.

However, neither the making of that order nor the expectation that such an order would be made could begin to excuse the parties' failure to comply with the automatic directions up to then.

The history of the case illustrated how beneficial pre-trial reviews could be in progressing cases forward to trial; but that history showed that much of the potential benefit was lost if the court took no step to order a pre-trial review until the plaintiff, well outside the six-month period but just within the 15-month period, belatedly requested a hearing date.

By then much time had elapsed, perhaps unnecessarily. The practice in different county courts varied, and much might depend on the resources, human and electronic, available in different places.

The court referred to the practice in the Central London County Court in personal injury cases involving claims in excess of £1,000, that where:

1 On receipt of the defence, the parties were sent a variant of form N 450, and were allocated a fixed date for trial not less than 40 weeks ahead;

2 By step 4 of the form both parties were required not later than 12 weeks from the start of the timetable to complete and send to the court a listing information form and were required to apply to the court for extension of the timetable where expert medical witnesses were unavailable to attend court by the last day of the fortieth week;

3 The listing information form, also sent to the parties, required each party's estimate of the length of the case, the likely number of witnesses, confirmation that they had been informed of the date fixed for the hearing, and any special features relevant to listing of the particular case;

4 If the parties failed to return that form by the due date, the court automatically fixed a hearing date for a pre-trial review, explaining that such a course enabled the court to control the progress of the case to avoid unnecessary delays.

The advantages of such a system were:

1 The parties had a trial date to which to work from delivery of the defence;

2 Both parties were required to send in their estimates 12 weeks after commencement of the timetable;

3 If they did not complete the listing information form then the court automatically stepped in;

4 All the satellite striking out litigation presently clogging the courts could become a thing of the past once the court routinely took control early, should the parties show that they were not working to the trial date; and

5 Unnecessary delay and unnecessary and expensive satellite litigation might be squeezed out of the system.

That practice, or some variant of it, was highly desirable and should be followed where practicable.

The court invited the directors of study of the Judicial Studies Board to examine the workings of the Central London scheme in practice, to see whether any other court centres had improvements on it and to consider whether it was practicable and desirable that the board should recommend a national practice in that regard.

The local practice adopted by the county court in the present case had no effect on the outcome of the appeal.

Solicitors: Wansbroughs Willey Hargrave, Bristol; Farnfield & Nicholls, Warminster.

Financial prejudice element in delay

Gahan v Szerelmey (UK) Ltd and Another

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Hobhouse and Sir Christopher Slade

[Judgment October 26]

A defendant seeking to have a personal injury action against him struck out on the ground that the plaintiff's delay had caused him financial prejudice had to bring into account the value of having in hand the money which, but for the delay, he would have had to have paid to the plaintiff. Any difficulty he had in making such computation might deter him from relying on that kind of prejudice except in the clearest and most obvious of cases.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Dermitt M. Gahan, from the order of Sir Peter Webster, sitting in chambers as a judge of the High Court on December 1, 1994, striking out for want of prosecution his personal injury claim against the first defendant, Szerelmey (UK) Ltd, and the second defendant, Mattison Scaffolding and Cradle Contractors.

Mr Peter Birts, QC and Mr Adrian Jack for the plaintiff; Mr Richard Methuen for the first defendant; Mr Simon King for the second defendant.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said that the question was whether a defendant who claimed that the plaintiff's inordinate and inexcusable delay had caused him financial prejudice of the kind identified in *Hayes v Bowman* ([1989] 1 WLR 456) and *Doyle v Robinson* ([1994] PIQR 59) had to bring into account the value to him of having in hand the money which, but for the delay, he would have had to pay to the plaintiff by way of damages.

The plaintiff, employed by the first defendant, sustained injuries in 1988 falling from scaffolding erected by the second defendants. The writ was issued in 1990.

The judge found delay of about two and a half years by the plaintiff from 1991 when the action should have been set down until the defendants' striking out summonses were issued in 1994.

Having been satisfied that that delay was inordinate and inexcusable he said that it looked as if there would be a difference of between £12,000 and £15,000 over and above the award of damages which would have been given of about £100,000 had the trial taken place in 1992.

The judge then went on to say: "Counsel for the plaintiff asks me to offset against those differences the monetary benefit which he says the defendants will have enjoyed by having the use of the money ultimately to be paid in damages if an award is made for three years before that happens, and he makes a number of calculations about the value of the returns on investments which the defendants would obtain; but I refuse to take this suggested set-off into account."

He concluded that it was likely that the defendants would suffer more than minimal financial prejudice on account of the delay and affirmed the two orders made by Master Turner striking out the plaintiff's claim.

Thus what was in dispute was the judge's view that in assessing the extent of the financial prejudice there had to be left out of account the value to the defendant of having in hand the money which, but for the delay, he would have had to pay to the plaintiff by way of damages.

If the question was viewed as one of principle, it admitted of only one answer. The value to the defendant must be brought into account. If it was not, the prejudice would be assessed by reference to a balance sheet consisting only of liabilities.

True, it might be difficult to value the assets, far more difficult than to state the liabilities, but that was no reason for leaving them out of account.

In *Hayes v Bowman* it was accepted by the defendant that to make a fair comparison, the defendant should give credit for the use which he or his insurers would have had of the money eventually awarded during the period of the delay (pp 462 and 465).

Proceeding on that footing, Lord Justice Slade had said (at p469) that if the true prejudice to the defendant was to be ascertained, there had to be set against the sum which would be awarded at the delayed trial (a) the fall in the spending power of money during the period of the delay and (b) the interest and/or capital appreciation which the defendant or his insurers would have been able to earn in respect of the sum which would have been awarded at a trial held timeously, if they had retained it in their hands over the period of the delay.

The defendants submitted that in *Hayes* the point went by way of concession and, moreover, by a concession which was wrongly made. They relied on *Doyle v Robinson* in which there was hardly a trace of the point having been taken and they argued from that that it had to be a bad one.

There was nothing of substance in the defendants' arguments. It was for a defendant to show that the plaintiff's inordinate and inexcusable delay had given rise to serious prejudice to him and if he alleged the kind of financial prejudice alleged here, he could not do so by relying on a one-sided balance sheet.

The assets had to be computed as stated by Lord Justice Slade in *Hayes v Bowman*. Any difficulties there might be in making the computation were not a justification for not making it. They might be a means of deterring defendants from relying on such prejudice except in clear and obvious cases.

The appeal should be allowed so that the plaintiff's action could proceed against both defendants.

Lord Justice Hobhouse and Sir Christopher Slade gave concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Ziadies, Stockwell; Mackrell Turner Garrett; Vizards.

Substitution of party is not new claim for time limit

Yorkshire Regional Health Authority v Fairclough Building Ltd and Another

Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Evans and Lord Justice Millett

[Judgment November 1]

The substitution of a new party under Order 15, rule 7 of the Rules of the Supreme Court did not involve the making of a "new claim" as defined in section 35(2) of the Limitation Act 1980.

Order 15, rule 7 was concerned with the substitution of a party who had succeeded to a claim or liability already represented in existing proceedings, which raised no question of limitation, and was wholly outside the scope of section 35 and the code provided by Order 15, rule 6(4) to (6). Accordingly, section 35 did not deprive the court of jurisdiction to order the substitution of a new party under Order 15, rule 7 after the expiry of the relevant limitation period.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by the second defendants, the Percy Thomas Partnership, from an order of Judge Humphrey Lloyd, QC, sitting on official referee's business on May 11, 1994 whereby he gave leave to the plaintiffs, Yorkshire Regional Health Authority to amend the writ and statement of claim by substituting Bradford Hospitals National Health Trust for YHRA as plaintiffs, pursuant to Order 15, rule 7.

Order 15, rule 7 provides: "(2) Where at any stage of the proceedings in any cause or matter the interest or liability of any party is assigned or transmited to or devolves upon some other person, the court may, if it thinks it necessary in order to ensure that all matters ... may be effectually and completely determined and adjudicated upon, order that other person to be made a party to the cause or matter and the proceedings to be carried on as if he had been substituted for the first mentioned party..."

Section 35 of the 1980 Act provides: "(2) In this section a new claim means ... any claim involving either (a) the addition or substitution of a new cause of action; or (b) the addition or substitution of a new party..."

Mr John Blackburn, QC and Mr Martin Bowdery for the second defendants; Mr Nicholas Dennys, QC and Mr Andrew Goddard for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE MILLETT said that the question was whether section 35 of the 1980 Act had deprived the court of jurisdiction to order that a party be substituted for another in the circumstances provided for by Order 15, rule 7 after the expiry of a relevant period of limitation.

The question had led to conflicting decisions in the Commercial Court. In *Toprak Enerji Sanayi AS v Sale Tilney Technology plc* ([1994] 1 WLR 840) Judge Diamond, QC, sitting as a deputy High Court judge, expressed the view that section 35 had that regrettable effect. That decision was cited to the judge in the present case but he had declined to follow it.

In *Industrie Chimiche Italia Centrale v Alexander G. Tsaliris & Sons Maritime Co (The Choko Star)* (*The Times* August 8, 1995) Mr Justice Mance had also declined to follow it.

Before their Lordships three questions had been argued:

1 Was the substitution of the trust for YHRA a "new claim" within the meaning of section 35 of the 1980 Act?

2 If so, was there power under Order 15, rule 7 to allow the substitution of the trust after the expiry of the limitation period?

3 If so, did the judge err in principle in exercising his discretion to order the substitution.

The second defendants' argument was simplicity itself. The trust's claim, they submitted, fell squarely within the second limb of section 35(2) as "(b) any claim involving ... the addition or substitution of a new party". The trust was a new party. It was, they submitted, as simple as that.

It was not however, as simple as that. Closer analysis showed that section 35(2) could not be construed literally. That was because the remainder of section 35 assumed that the two limbs of the subsection were mutually exclusive.

In his Lordship's view, the antithesis was between a claim which involved the addition or substitution of a new party and one which did not.

The first limb must therefore be confined to claims which involved a new cause of action but which did not involve the addition or substitution of a new party. Claims which involved the addition or substitution of a new party as well as a new cause of action fell within the second limb.

The question was whether the second limb also included claims which involved the addition or substitution of a new party but which did not involve a new cause of action. In his Lordship's opinion it did not.

There were two entirely different kinds of substitution provided for by the rules, one where the party substituted had succeeded to a claim or liability already represented in the action, and one where he had not. It would be outside the scope of the 1980 Act to alter the law relating to the former kind of substitution, which involved no question of limitation.

In his Lordship's judgment, therefore, the substitution of a new party under Order 15, rule 7 did not involve the making of a new claim as defined in section 35(2) of the Limitation Act 1980 and was not affected by anything in that section.

Lord Justice Evans delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Neill agreed with both.

Solicitors: Hammond Suddards, Leeds; Mr W. J. M. Lovel, Harrogate.

Single advocate cannot present conflicting views

In re P (Minors) (Representation)

Before Lord Justice Russell, Lord Justice Thorpe and Sir Ralph Gibson

[Judgment November 8]

It was impossible for a single advocate to advance a plan proposed by a local authority in care proceedings and at the same time to represent the interests of a child opposed to the care plan.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an appeal by the guardian ad litem against a decision of Mr Justice Douglas Brown on October 26, 1995 refusing to allow S, aged 14, the second of seven children the subject of care proceedings, to be represented separately from her younger siblings in the proceedings.

Mr Roderic Wood, QC for the guardian ad litem; Miss Indira Ramsahoye for Westminster City Council.

LORD JUSTICE THORPE said all seven children had originally been represented by Mr Clive Matthews. A guardian ad litem had been appointed and had applied for the eldest child to be represented by a different solicitor.

The guardian and Mr Matthews had seen S to obtain her views on the care plan filed by the local authority and she had rejected the proposals. The guardian and Mr Matthews had sought leave of the judge to be separately represented.

Although sympathetic to the application, the judge had refused on the single ground that the matter had been raised so late in the proceedings that to arrange separate representation would abort the fixture.

In fact, solicitors and counsel had since been found who could represent S separately at the fixed hearing. Had the judge been in possession of the full facts he would not have refused the application.

The judge had urged Mr Matthews to use his forensic judgment and skill, and do his best to represent not only the other children but S as well. That was a wish incapable of due performance. The confusion to which such a road led was illustrated by an extreme case *In re H* ([1993] 1 FLR 440).

In truth it was impossible for a single advocate to advance the position advocated by a local authority in care proceedings and at the same time to represent the interests of a child opposed to the care plan.

Lord Justice Russell and Sir Ralph Gibson agreed.

Solicitors: Farrell Matthews & Weir, Hammersmith: Miss Jacqueline V. Harris, Westminster.

Order against Crown

Firglen Ltd v Secretary of State for the Environment

An action for specific performance of a contract to sell land, initiated by a writ issued out of the Queen's Bench Division by the plaintiff company against the defendant, was a civil proceeding against the Crown within sections 21 and 23(2)(a) of the Crown Proceedings Act 1947.

Mr Justice Harman so held in the Chancery Division on October 24 when discharging an interim injunction granted ex parte on circuit by Mr Justice Gage forbidding the Secretary of State for the Environment from selling certain premises in Bradford.

Extradition committal valid in absence of time bar term

Regina v Bow Street Magistrates' Court, Ex parte Paloka

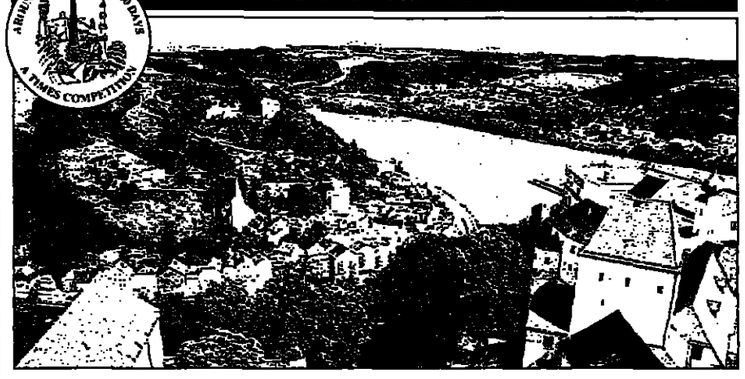
It was not fatal to the validity of proceedings for committal for extradition that there was no reference to limitation in the request for extradition put before the court.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Simon Brown and Mr Justice Scott Baker) so held on November 6 in dismissing the application of Serxho Paloka for a writ of habeas corpus to release him from the order of Mr R. Bartle, Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate, sitting at Bow Street on July 10, 1995 to commit him to custody to await extradition to Austria on charges of aggravated robbery.

MR JUSTICE SCOTT BAKER said that the applicant's argument had been that the magistrate had to be satisfied that he was dealing with an extradition crime and could not be so satisfied if either the offence was time barred or there was a possibility that it might be time barred.

His Lordship said that there had been no reference to limitation in the presentation of foreign law in the request for extradition. No limitation point was laid before the magistrate and there was no material on which he could come to any conclusion other than to commit for extradition.

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THE TIMES

NEW FILMS

Pari

When filming from the urban battlefronts, it is so easy to indulge the characters and the violence. Kassovitz reins himself in and makes every minute count. He cares for his outcasts, but never glorifies them; and his nervous camera finds a happy balance between the rough edges of documentary and the posed images of conscious art. For anyone grown weary of French cinema's bourgeois sheen, *La Haine* is a wonderful wake-up call. See it.

A man of few but meaningful words, Keanu Reeves. "It's beautiful!" he says, overlooking the Californian vineyard that is home to the pregnant girl for whom he masquerades as a husband. "It's delicious!" he says, tasting her grandmother's soup. A better script would certainly help. But you would still be left feeling Keanu does not have much between the ears. And you would still be left with A Walk in the Clouds, Hollywood's biggest heap of romantic

هكذا من الاصل



■ FILM 1

La Haine is a brilliant portrait of disaffected French youth in revolt against thuggish authority



■ FILM 2

Keanu Reeves's attempt to broaden his repertoire falls flat in the soggy idyll of *A Walk in the Clouds*

THE TIMES FILMS
ARTS



■ FILM 3

Kaspar Hauser portrays an enigmatic figure in German history with compelling depth and detail



■ FILM 4

. . . but Hollywood comedy seems to be getting dumber: now comes the gormless *Tommy Boy*

NEW FILMS: **Geoff Brown** admires the dispatches from France's urban battleground

Paris has its mean streets too



Vincent Cassel, Said Taghmaoui and Hubert Kounde on collision course with the world in *La Haine*, a powerful portrait of volatile youth

The young French actor and director Mathieu Kassovitz was apparently keen for **La Haine** (Hate) to be banned, or at least subjected to the censor's scissors. "*La Haine* is an anti-cop film," he said, "and I want it to be taken as such."

It must have been quite galling, then, for him to find the Establishment smothering him with kisses. At Cannes in May, Kassovitz picked up the Best Director award for this powerful, high-voltage portrait of volatile youth on a Paris housing estate. On its release in June, French critics stacked up the superlatives. Crowds stampeded screenings. Dinner tables resounded with talk of Kassovitz, and Jacques Chirac wrote an appreciative letter.

The film made such an impact partly because it acknowledges that urban life is not the bed of roses that much French cinema depicts. It thrusts audiences to the outer suburbs, where ethnic tensions erupt and high-rise estates squat, unlovely, unloved; where youngsters with no horizons fill the hours with petty crime, fuelling resentment at a police force easily pushed into thuggery or racist abuse. *La Haine* recognises that not everyone speaks in gilded phrases; the words tumbling out are couched in *verlan*, a syllable-reversing form of slang. No comfortable colour to sink into, either: this is in harsh black-and-white.

As we join the characters, the estate still simmers from rioting prompted by the brutal treatment of an Arab youth in police custody. Residents and police pester each other; loud music blares, and louder insults. Three youngsters emerge in the foreground: *Vinz (impulsive), Said (hyperactive)* and Hubert (thoughtful). So does a handgun, left by the police. All four go into Paris for the night. Not everyone returns alive.

Kassovitz, a 28-year-old with one feature, *Métisse*, behind him, claims no formal cinema training. Whatever he knows comes from watching movies, feet probably dangling over the row in front. Scorsese's *Mean Streets*, Spike Lee's *Do the Right Thing*, the forceful imagery of Spielberg: these are Kassovitz's influences, and they give *La Haine* much of its visual power. He knows how to handle actors, too: you feel the electric sparks as his three leads, played by Vincent Cassel, Hubert Kounde and Saïd Taghmaoui, trade slang and collide with the world.

When filming from the urban battlefronts, it is so easy to indulge the characters and the violence. Kassovitz reins himself in and makes every minute count. He cares for his outcasts, but never glorifies them; and his nervous camera finds a happy balance between the rough edges of documentary and the posed images of conscious art. For anyone grown weary of French cinema's bourgeois sheen, *La Haine* is a wonderful wake-up call. See it.

A man of few but meaningful words, Keanu Reeves. "It's beautiful!" he says, overlooking the Californian vineyard that is home to the pregnant girl for whom he masquerades as a husband. "It's delicious!" he says, tasting her grandmother's soup. A better script would certainly help. But you would still be left feeling Keanu does not have much between the ears. And you would still be left with **A Walk in the Clouds**, Hollywood's biggest heap of romantic twaddle since . . . well, memory fails me.

Reeves presumably thought he was broadening his range by playing a sensitive soldier who returns from the Second World War to an uninterested wife and becomes embroiled with a proud Mexican family in Napa Valley. But this soggy idyll has scant appeal to anyone who thrilled to *Speed*, and only highlights the actor's limitations. Equally, the film does little for Alfonso Arau, the Mexican director in Hollywood's embrace after his wildly overrated *Like Water for Chocolate*. That film camouflaged his visual gaucheries with a fantastical plot plus sexual trimmings. Now he, too, lies exposed.

There is a good reason why the story appears old-fashioned. Behind the script lies *Four Steps in the Clouds*, a 1942 Italian film that won many friends with its simple lyricism, and once inspired Alexander Korda to consider a remake with Ralph Richardson. Now the lyricism has turned to bathos. You can hear it in Reeves's voice; see it in the golden photography, the bucolic grape crushing, and the jovial patriarch played by Anthony Quinn — one of a team found, in the production note's phrase, after a "year-long international search".

What kind of search scours the globe and then picks Anthony Quinn? At least Arau's hunting party returned with one trophy, Aitana Sanchez-Gijon, a Spanish actress whose beauty deserves a better outlet than a girl in love with a sack of potatoes, which is how poor Keanu appears. Arau also bagged the Italian Giancarlo Giannini for the girl's unyielding father, though the role is pitched too close to caricature to allow him to shine. What does shine, boringly, is the sun: it streaks through trees, blazes down on the vineyard, fills the sky with orange. Is this a film, or a wine commercial?

Werner Herzog's 1974 film *The Enigma of Kaspar Hauser* wasted no time in presenting its enigma. Right at the opening, Kaspar, a pawn in German 19th-century politics and a rumoured heir to the Baden throne, stood catatonic in a Nuremberg square: the result, apparently, of years of imprisonment in a cellar.

Peter Sehr's absorbing **Kaspar Hauser** takes 40 minutes to reach the same point. It probably took longer still in the three-hour television version from which this print derives. Sehr likes historical detail; and though much in his script remains conjecture — the House of Baden is still secreting documents — he finds plenty of intrigue to weave round the vulnerable hero, effectively played by André Eisermann. Battling palatinates. Dynastic rivalries. One baby substituted for another.

In the Seventies, Herzog was one of cinema's visionaries. Sehr, previously known for *The Serbian Girl*, is a plodder by comparison; but his film takes such a different tack that there is easily room for his own *Kaspar Hauser*. Herzog cherishes the enigma, and contemplates innocence defiled by society. Sehr puts the enigma in context, and pulls us into the power games played by princes, dukes and one English lord (Jeremy Clyde), who takes up Kaspar's cause for his own ends.

Luckily, there is more to the film's texture than plush wallpaper. Characters suffer from bile and gangrene. And Sehr gives the story a human dimension. Eisermann's Kaspar may be putty, but we care how he is moulded. The Nuremberg doctor who takes him in teaches him speech and equality. Stanhope preaches class distinction and fancy phrases. No good comes of this: at the end, Kaspar is sapped of all spirit.

A sobering tale, this, and Sehr's straightforward style offers little decoration. But the film commands respect: I can think of many worse ways of spending a November night.

Like watching **Tommy Boy**, the latest Hollywood comedy to enthrone stupidity. Chris Farley's Tommy, heir to an auto parts factory, is not only an idiot. He is also fat. You can guess the hilarity, therefore, when he changes clothes in an aircraft loo. Farley and his sidekick David Spade hail from *Saturday Night Live*, but this lowbrow vehicle has none of the goofy charm that made *Wayne's World* a viable spin-off.

Stupidity is not an issue with **Institute Benjamenta**, the first excursion into live action by the British-based Brothers Quay, enigmatic masters of puppet animation. A plot of sorts about a school for servants lies somewhere inside, derived from the writings of Robert Walser. But you never feel human beings are involved: Mark Rylance, Alice Krige and the rest are treated like objects, placed next to forks, stag horns and dripping water in an incredible symphony of light and shade. The pace is slow though never static, and the black-and-white photography of Nic Knowland often takes the breath away.

The film's meaning? Death, decay and nothingness appear to be the themes. One viewing is not enough to be sure. The good news is that the film is sufficiently haunting not to deter a second look.

Also released this week is **The Scarlet Letter**, a lubricious treatment of Nathaniel Hawthorne's book featuring Demi Moore and several bubble baths. It has not been shown to the critics, though every bus stop in London carries its advertisement. Is that good news or bad news? I will report back next week.

La Haine
Lumière, 15, 97 mins
Boyz 'n' the hood come to Paris

A Walk in the Clouds
Odeon Haymarket, PG, 103 mins
Vacuous romance with Keanu Reeves

Kaspar Hauser
MGM Piccadilly, 18, 125 mins
Absorbing account of the German enigma

Tommy Boy
Plaza, PG, 97 mins
Hollywood gets dumb and dumber

Institute Benjamenta
ICA Cinema, 105 mins
Haunting images from the Brothers Quay

Why is Felix just a stray?

As European cinema slaps itself on the back, **David Robinson** wonders why so few people care

This is the month of self-acclaim for the European cinema. Last week the Geneva Film Festival presented its competition to nominate the best new European actor and actress — "les Espoirs" — of the year. On Sunday, the European Film Academy held its awards ceremony in Berlin: the Felix for best European film went to the British director Ken Loach for *Land and Freedom*.

When the Felix was created eight years ago, it was intended as Europe's equivalent of the Oscar. But while the Oscars dominate the world news media for weeks on end, the Felix is lucky to get so much as an end-of-column agency report in the major European newspapers. This disparity is no reflection on the prestige of the award itself, but rather a symptom of the flaws in the Utopian dreams of a pan-European cinema.

The theory underlying these dreams is that Europe not only offers a larger market than America but possesses vast resources of film talent. Nevertheless, more than 90 per cent of European screens are permanently taken up by American films, and the figure is creeping up day by day. Outside London, for instance, it is hard for English audiences to see *Land and Freedom*, and rarer still to see subtitled European films.

In the early years the Felix awards aimed to emulate the glamour of the Oscars, but public interest in the European event rapidly waned. In consequence, the Felix ceremony has had to adapt, to become more modest and private, though still prestigious affair. This year it was held at a lunch in a Berlin cabaret theatre.

The runners-up were Theo Angelopoulos's *Ulysses Gaze* and Eric Rohmer's *Les Rendez-vous de Paris* (which can be seen at the London Film Festival on Sunday). The Best Young European Film was Mathieu Kassovitz's *La Haine*, released in Britain tomorrow (reviewed, left). A British film, Michael Winterbottom's *Butterfly Kiss*, was a runner-up in this category.

By contrast with the Felix awards, the Geneva festival goes from strength to strength, thanks to its simple notion of being a competition not for films but for young actors and actresses.

The best actor prize went to an extrovert young Russian, Vladimir Machkov, playing a computer pirate in the cut-throat underworld of the new Russia, in Denis Evstigneev's debut feature, *Limita*. The winning actress was a Basque pop singer, Najwa Nimry, in her first film role, as a shaven-headed teenage gangster in another debut feature, the Spaniard Daniel Calparsoro's *Jump into the Void*. The critics' prize went to a British actor, Reece Dinsdale, for his role in Philip Davis's *I. D.*

However, the outstanding personality of the festival was Catherine Klein, from France. Both the main and the press juries gave her special awards for her dazzling versatility.

Klein co-wrote Philippe Faucon's *Muriel fait le desespoir de ses parents*, and dominates the film in the title role as a 17-year-old provincial girl in Paris, coming to terms with her own sexuality. The festival also showed a short dramatic film, *Ravin*, directed by the 24-year-old Klein. She was certainly one of the brightest personalities in European film this year.

Chris holding CD case up.
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■ CHOICE 1

Esa-Pekka Salonen conducts Paul Hindemith's opera *Mathis der Maler*

VENUE: Opens tonight at the Royal Opera House



■ CHOICE 2

Kipling's *Jungle Book* comes to the stage in a new adaptation

VENUE: Previews from today at the Young Vic

THE TIMES

ARTS



■ POP 1

A courageous and challenging show from David Bowie may not have pleased all fans



■ POP 2

... but it was party time at the Albert Hall as Human League returned after an eight-year absence

LONDON

MATHIS DER MALER. Opening night for Hindemith's operatic masterpiece, the protagonist is the 16th-century painter Matthias Grünewald, creator of the Isenheim altarpiece, but the subject is the role of the artist in times of political upheaval, about which the composer knew a lot. The Nazis got the point and banned *Mathis* in 1934. Director Peter Sellars and conductor Esa-Pekka Salonen make their Covent Garden debuts, with a strong cast led by Alan Titus, Wolfgang Fassler, Sug Anderson and Inga Nielson
Royal Opera House, Bow Street, WC2 (0171-304 4000) Tonight, 7pm.

THE JUNGLE BOOK: Tim Supple follows last year's unforgettable *Grimm Tales* with his adaptation of three of Kipling's Mowgli stories for the Christmas season.
Young Vic, The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6363) Previews begin today, 1.30pm, opens Dec 5, 7pm Until Jan 27. 🅂

PINNOCK'S PERIOD MUSIC Another enjoyable evening of 17th and 18th-century music is on the cards as Trevor Pinnock returns with the acclaimed English Concert. Tonight's programme from the period instrument specialists includes works from Muffat, Telemann, JS Bach and Handel
St John's, Smith Square, SW1 (0171-222 1061) Tonight, 7.30pm

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

ELSEWHERE

CANTERBURY: Tom Stoppard's witty, intriguing, award-winning *Arcadia* continues its national tour. Sharon Maughan and Paul Shelley star in the comedy that is part historical romance and part detective story, co-produced with the National Theatre.
Marlowe, The Friars 🅂 (01227 787 787). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm, mats today and Sat, 2.30pm Next week in **Belfast**, Grand Opera House 🅂 (01232 241919)

GLASGOW: The **BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra** shows off the talents of its associate composer Tan Dun, with a performance of his Orchestral Theatre I: *Xun* and the UK premiere of Orchestral Theatre II: *Re*. Tonight's concert, as part of the Cutting Edge series, also features works by Messiaen and Stravinsky.
Henry Wood Hall (0141-227 5511). 7.30pm, Radio 3.

CARDIFF: Rambert Dance Company takes over the New Theatre this week, as it nears the end of its season tour. The programme for the next three nights is Mark Baldwin's lighthearted *Banter Banter*, with Christopher Bruce's gripping, political *Swansong* and the Rolling Stone powered *Rooster*
New, Park Place 🅂 (01222 878889). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm. Next in **Bournemouth**, Pavilion 🅂 (01202 297297), Nov 23-25.

MANCHESTER: Last week of performances for Amanda Donohue in the title role of Strindberg's **Miss Julie**. Directed by Braham Murray, with Patrick O'Kane as the valet and Marie Francis his fiancee.
Royal Exchange, St Ann's Square (0161-833 9833). Tonight, 7.30pm; Fri and Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. 🅂

LONDON GALLERIES

Barbican: Dora Carrington (0171-638 4141) ... **Hayward:** Art and Power: Europe under the dictators 1930-1945 (071-928 3144) ... **National Gallery:** Gods in Love: the Caracci Cartoons Restored (0171-747 2885) ... **National Portrait Gallery:** John Kobal Photographic Award (0171-306 0055) ... **Royal Academy:** David Hockney: A Drawing Retrospective (0171-439 7438) **Serpentine:** William Turnbull (0171-723 9072) ... **Tate:** Dynasties: Paintings in Tudor and Jacobean England (0171-887 8000) ... **V & A:** Back of the Envelope: famous art and design scribbles (0171-938 8500)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
🅂 **Some seats available**
☐ **Seats at all prices**

🅂 **BEFORE THE PARTY.** Chameleon Productions revive Rodney Ackland's play based on a Somerset Maugham story. Shocking family secrets emerge on the eve of what should be a scrupulously nice village celebration.
Prince, Prince of Orange, 189 Greenwich High Road, SE10 (0181-858 9256) Opens tonight, 8pm. Then Tue-Sun, 8pm. Until Dec 9. 🅂

☐ **FUNNY MONEY.** Ray Cooney plays the man who finds a bag of bank-notes in his latest farce. Charlie Drake excellent as a sorely-tried taxi-driver.
Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (0171-839 4401) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm. 🅂

☐ **HOBSON'S CHOICE.** Leo McKern in the title role of Harold Brighouse's warm-hearted comedy. Nichola McAuliffe and Graham Turner excellent as daughter and son-in-law
Lyric, Shaftesbury Ave, W1 (0171-494 5045) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Sat, 3pm. 🅂

🅂 **AN INSPECTOR CALLS.** Stephen Daldry's powerful production, with Nicholas Woodeson as the all-knowing Inspector, and Edward Peel and Susan Engel as the pillars of society.
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085) Mon-Fri, 7.45pm; Sat, 8.15pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 6pm

☐ **JOLSON** The highs and lows of the singer with with a monster ego. Brian Conley belts out the songs enjoyably and Sally Ann Triplett is an impressive Ruby Keeler.

Victoria Palace, Victoria Street, SW1 (0171-834 1317) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. 🅂

🅂 **MACK AND MABEL:** Jerry Herman's musical set in early Hollywood. Fine songs, though a troublesome book: Howard McGillin and a delightful Caroline O'Sullivan
Piccadilly, Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

☐ **THE PARK:** Botho Strauss's continuation of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* into the present day. The focus wobbles but there are many ingeniously sour insights into modern life and love.
Pit, Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891) Today, 2pm and 7.15pm. 🅂

☐ **RAT IN THE SKULL:** Tony Doyle and Rufus Sewell battle out the torments of Ulster in Ron Hutchinson's engrossing play. Stephen Daldry directs.
Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-836 5122). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Thurs, Sat, 3pm. Final week. 🅂

🅂 **THE SHAKESPEARE REVUE.** A witty evening of song, dance and sketches to do with William S Assembled by Christopher Luscombe and Malcolm McKee.
Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm; mats Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 5.30pm.

🅂 **THREE TALL WOMEN:** Maggie Smith, Sara Kestelman and Samantha Bond in Edward Albee's fascinating play about the adoptive mother who withered his childhood.
Wyndhams, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736) Tue-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

☐ **VIVATI VIVAT REGINA!:** Janet McTeer and Barbara Flynn play the queens in Robert Bolt's now old-fashioned drama of the rivalry between Elizabeth I and Mary, Queen of Scots. Roy Marsden directs.
Mermaid, Puddle Dock, EC4 (0171-236 2211). Tue-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed, 2pm and Sat, 3pm. 🅂

🅂 **WILD OATS.** Jeremy Sams's highly enjoyable revival of John O'Keefe's 1791 farce returns, following a brief national tour. Anton Lesser as Rover, the touring actor whose talk is a patchwork of the roles he has played: with Alan Cox, James Bolam and Sarah Woodward
National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 22523). Tonight-Mon, 7.30pm mat Sat, 2.15pm. 🅂

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

NEW RELEASES

EXQUISITE TENDERNESS (18). Nasty medical thriller with a less than lustrous cast (Isabel Glasser, James Remar). Director, Carl Schenkel.
MGM Piccadilly (0171-437 3561)

LIVING IN OBLIVION (15). Trials and tribulations of making a low-budget movie. Delicious comedy from director Tom DiCillo, with Steve Buscemi
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Panton Street** (0171-930 0631) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

◆ **PANTHER** (15). Hurtling, rose-tinted drama about the rise of the Black Panther movement in the 1960s. Mario Van Peebles directs
MGM Trocadero 🅂 (0171-434 0031) **Plaza** 🅂 (0171-437 1234) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

THE SOUND OF MUSIC (U) Thirtieth anniversary revival of the musical marshmallow, with Julie Andrews, Christopher Plummer, and some ravishing Alpine scenery.
Plaza (0171-437 1234)

WHEN NIGHT IS FALLING (18) Canadian lesbian drama with a good heart but too much flimsy whimsy. Writer-director, Patricia Rozema (*I've Heard the Mermaids Singing*).
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Metro** (0171-437 0757) **MGM Piccadilly** (0171-437 3561) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

◆ **TO WONG FOO THANKS FOR EVERYTHING, JULIE NEWMAR** (PG) New York drag queens charm the mid-West. Cosy comedy drama, with Patrick Swayze, Wesley Snipes and John Leguizamo. Director, Beeban Kidron
MGMs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Fulham Rd** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (0171-792 3332) **Warner** 🅂 (0171-437 4343)

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

CURRENT

◆ **CRIMSON TIDE** (15) Antique heroics in a nuclear submarine, with Gene Hackman, Denzel Washington
Barbican 🅂 (0171-638 8891)
MGMs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Notting Hill Coronet** 🅂 (0171-727 5705) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Square** (01426-915 683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (0171-792 3332)

FARINELLI (15) The life of an 18th-century castrato. Lots of opera, sex and clothes, but Gérard Corbiau's film only scratches the material's potential
Barbican 🅂 (0171-638 8891) **Curzon Mayfair** (0171-369 1720) **MGMs: Fulham Road** 🅂 (0171-370 2636) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030)

◆ **FRENCH KISS** (12) Charmless romantic comedy with dizzy Meg Ryan and French rogue Kevin Kline.
Clapham Picture (0171-498 3323)

MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** 🅂 (0171-434 0031) **Odeons: Haymarket** (01426 915353) **Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (792 3332) **Warner** 🅂 (0171-437 4343)

◆ **JADE** (18) Nasty, meretricious thriller about the ripples caused by a millionaire's murder; with David Caruso and Linda Fiorentino
Empire (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** 🅂 (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (0171-792 3332)

◆ **THE NET** (12): New technology, but enjoyable old thrills, with Sandra Bullock as a computer expert in peril
Odeons: Kensington (01426 914666) **Mezzanine** 🅂 (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098)

◆ **TO DIE FOR** (15) Delicious social satire about a television weather girl's murderous lust for glory. Gus Van Sant directs Nicole Kidman and Matt Dillon
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Mezzanine** 🅂 (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (0171-792 3332) **Warner** 🅂 (0171-437 4343)

◆ **UNDER SIEGE 2** (18) Die Hard on a train, with Steven Seagal, Eric Bogosian and much tedious action
MGM Trocadero 🅂 (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (0171-792 3332) **Warner** 🅂 (0171-437 4343)

POP: Bowie comes back from the outside; the Human League throw a disco party

Acquitted on all charges of art-crime

David Bowie/ Morrissey
Wembley Arena

Like Prince, who played at Wembley earlier this year, David Bowie has reached the stage where his continued growth as a creative artist has long been under threat from the stifling familiarity of his back catalogue. But while it is one thing to vow never to play your old hits again, as Bowie did after his *Sound and Vision* tour in 1990, it is quite another to face your audience for 105 minutes and resist all pressure to fall back on the tried and tested.

While Prince bamboozled his fans with material that had not even seen the light of day, Bowie at least gave people time to digest the contents of his new album, the ambitious but awkward *Outside*, before marshalling his latest live show. Nor did he abandon his old songs, entirely.

It still looked like being an uphill slog as the band opened with *The Motel*, one of the slower and more dolorous numbers from *Outside*, and Bowie appeared from behind the drumkit, singing and walking as if in his sleep. The staging was simple but stylish: a backdrop of silver drapes, a few chairs upturned on tables in the corner, one or two statues and an "art-crime" victim suspended from above.

The band, which featured the distinctive piano stylings of Mike Garson, the eccentric lead and dependable rhythm guitar playing of Reeves Gabrels and Carlos Alomar respectively, and the thunderously funky bass of Gail Ann Dorsey, combined a certain edginess with conventional arena-strength firepower. But by the time they got to *Hearts Filthy Lesson*, a song with no discernible tune, performed with an ugly distortion effect on Bowie's voice that made him sound like a frog, the show seemed mired in a joyless aesthetic.

The turning point came with a version of *Scary Monsters (And Super Creeps)*, played like a battering ram and followed by two of the best numbers from the new album, *I Have Not Been to Oxford Town* (kicked along in fine style by Dorsey) and *Outside*. Suddenly the show started to make sense, and the completely rearranged versions of *Andy Warhol* and *The Man Who Sold the World* confirmed the wisdom of Bowie's tough-minded approach.

He gave the rest of the new album a good shake and ended with a conciliatory *Under Pressure* and a defiant *Hallo Spaceboy*. There was no encore, and while it may cost him in future ticket sales, it was a courageous show, which found Bowie turning his back on the option of a comfortable life in the rock 'n' roll heritage industry.

Poor Morrissey, though. He sang well, he looked elegant and his band played with cool determination. But he met the universal fate of support acts, nonetheless. *Dagenham Dave*, *Now My Heart is Full*, even a furiously hammered *Speedway* — it was all to no avail. Performing too early, on a borrowed stage to someone else's cold audience, the man with the rapidly thinning quiff fell as flat as a pancake. It is hard to imagine Morrissey putting up with this level of indifference for the whole of a lengthy tour.

DAVID SINCLAIR

DES JENSON



Loving the alien: Bowie's new act, based on his album *Outside*, shows a courageous determination not to be written off as part of the rock 'n' roll heritage industry

Party performance in the premier league

Human League
Albert Hall

IT IS as if the Albert Hall has been converted into an out-of-town shopping mall. The stage, for instance, is one giant Ikea showroom. Vast cylindrical lampshades surge up or downwards, depending on the mood of the song: the keyboard players appear to be standing behind the sort of easy-to-assemble work benches that the store's catalogue-compilers might christen Sven or Olaf. Meanwhile, the core band members themselves — Phil Oakey, Susan Sulley and Joanne Catherall — are so acutely, so determinedly fashionably dressed it is as if the mannequins in the Top Shop/Top Man window have sprung to life.

Which is the cue for a giant party. The first Human League tour in eight years (only the third in its long-standing current line-up as a threesome) has been so keenly anticipated that an additional 12 dates were added hastily to the original UK itinerary. No wonder, then, that the auditorium swiftly comes to resemble a northern disco, circa 1982. The early part of the set may concentrate on material from this year's *Octopus*, an emphatic comeback album and the trio's first for a new label, but the essential sound remains the same... Oakey's ridiculously deep baritone set against those cooing, ordinary-girl harmonies and all that pulsing technology.

True, newer material like the forthcoming single *Stay With Me Tonight* is the mixture as before only much faster, a significant nod to the current state of Germanic dance music, Human League's alma mater. But what tonight's dance crowd wants to hear are the hits — from *Don't You Want Me* to *Human*, from *Love Action* to *Tell Me When*.

Oakey, pop's best-preserved 40-year-old, fronts them all impeccably, supported energetically throughout by Sulley and Catherall, tirelessly glamorous, so cheerfully self-aware that they could pose for Britain. In short, the best time is had by all — by the end, even the security staff are getting into the groove.

ALAN JACKSON

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■ THEATRE

Dame Diana is no weather-flayed crone, but her Mother Courage finally convinces at the National



■ DANCE

Swan Lake is given a sex change and a thrilling new lease of life at Sadler's Wells

THE TIMES
ARTS



■ MUSIC

A Chopin and Schumann recital at the Festival Hall finds Maurizio Pollini in lacklustre form

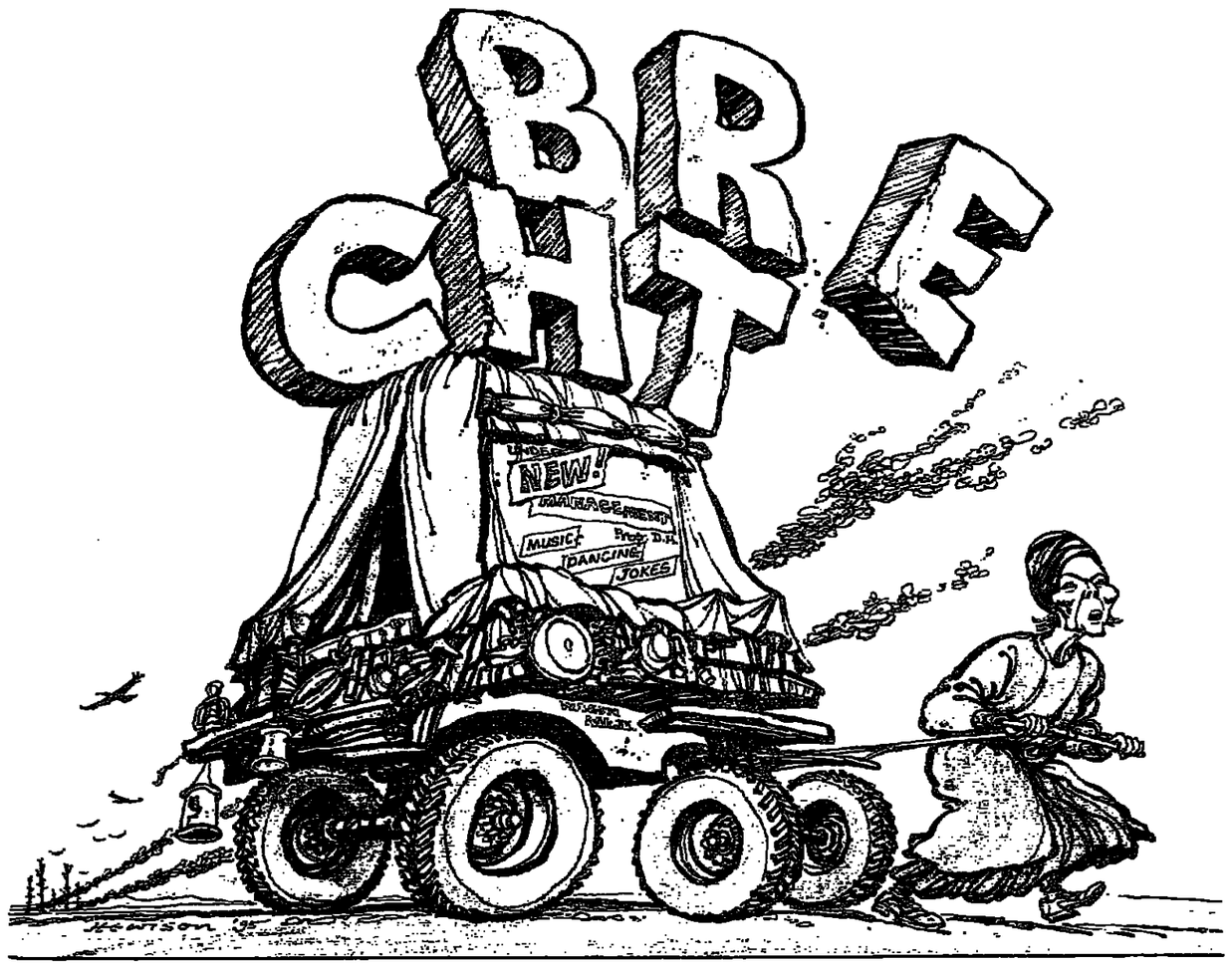


■ TOMORROW

Reviews of all the new pop albums, including the latest from Bruce Springsteen

THEATRE: Diana Rigg succeeds as an unlikely Brechtian anti-hero. Plus, a cult idol on the fringe

Canny use of mother wit



The burden of war: as Brecht's profiteering Mother Courage, Diana Rigg "works fiercely to turn her natural advantages to disadvantages"

Mother Courage
Olivier

Some formidable actresses have been between the shafts of Mother Courage's cart in recent years. More or less the last thing Glenda Jackson did before going off to rattle and blast the Commons was to blast and rattle her way through Brecht's play. Before that, Judi Dench stomped round the Barbican stage, exuding chunky defiance and stocky pluck. And now here is Diana Rigg, in some ways the most surprising of them all.

You have only to glance at the production photos of Helene Weigel, Brecht's wife and the Berliner Ensemble's original Mother Courage, to see why. Her cheeks are sunken, her face sullen. Her Courage has a brutalised, not to say Breughelised look, which is very clearly the result of years spent trudging through 17th-century war zones in search of petty profits. But when I first saw Rigg, I had the impression she had chosen rather outré fancy dress for the glamorous-granny competition she was inexplicably entering. The white teeth, the fine if slightly smeared face, the effortlessly majestic bearing she brought two years ago to Euripides — Medea yes, but Brecht's relentlessly downbeat anti-heroine, surely not.

Yet as Jonathan Kent's production sped on, and she herself stalked from Sweden via Moravia to Saxony, Rigg's performance grew on me. All along she was working so fiercely to turn her natural advantages to disadvantages. Her voice became a brassy blend of growl and snarl, her body took on a brash, truculent swagger. If I still could not quite credit her as a weather-flayed crone, I could certainly believe in her as an opportunist trader and canny survivor. She brings streetwise wit to the stony roads of old Europe.

David Hare's crisp, colloquial new translation, with its "she's winding me up" and its "you dickhead", finds more than the usual amount of humour in the play, and so does Rigg. She never gives away her emotions, as Dench did. Her face is an awful blank at the famous moment when she turns away from the murdered son she has been forced to pretend is a stranger. If anything, it is grimmer, deader when her daughter's corpse is carried away. What I shall mainly remember is the way she greets remarks such as "we're all in God's hands". "Oh, I wouldn't say things are as bad as that," she says, and the reply has a harsh, sardonic humour all Rigg's own.

For better or worse, Brecht would have been pleased. After the play's Swiss premiere in 1941, he did all he could to desentimentalise a protagonist audiences found too sympathetic, both by rewriting some of her lines and, later, by encouraging Weigel to bring out Mother Courage's less appealing qualities. As he saw it, she was a greedy petite-bourgeoise who perpetuated war by battening onto it, and lost her children because she thought she could profit from evil with impunity. As he said: "You need a very long spoon to sup with the Devil."

If that moral does not emerge as strongly as it might from Kent's production, the reason is less Rigg's acting than Paul Bond's curious designs. The cracked wall at the back opens, like a children's Advent calendar, to reveal tiny tableaux: a looming fortress, flames, tall tapering trees, fields of wheat with merry peasants. But where is the sense of destruction and desolation? The grey papier-mâché vulture that swoops about between scenes does not help much. Nor does Mother Courage's khaki cart, which loses its top as the evening proceeds but retains the anachronistic black tyres she presumably obtained on a side trip to the Gulf War. The music is sometimes more Broadway than ironically Broadway.

Still, there is a decent performance from Geoffrey Hutchings as the Cook fancied by Rigg: a stronger one from David Bradley as a Chaplain who evolves from dry preciosity to lank-haired humility as he absorbs the miseries of war: and a moving one from Lesley Sharp as Kattrin, Courage's deaf-and-dumb daughter. Does she make us almost too aware of the character's love for children and, until her last self-sacrificial moments, the impossibility of fulfilling that love in the killing fields? No, because even Brecht, who tended to regard all emotion as self-indulgence, agreed that what he called "empathy" could not be avoided here. I duly empathised. A lot.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Poetic licence to rock

A rock star, dripping sweat in his satanic leathers, is hanging from a harness in a cage. Clutching his groin, he is ritualistically and cynically stirring up his girl groupies to scream out their names. If you were expecting a pretty little verse-play from the Damned Poets Theatre Company, this could come as a shock.

The company started out in 1993 with Shelley's *The Cenci*. Now it has a new play by poet Glyn Maxwell. *The Heart in Hiding*, about a cult idol turned alcoholic called Aidan, hiding out in the country but tracked down by two teeny-bopper fanatics and a tabloid snooper, hardly sounds like poetry. Hazarding a guess, I would say the play is in iambic pentameters. However

The Heart in Hiding
BAC, Battersea

Andrea Brooks's cast, notably Moray Treadwell, who makes a dangerously wasted Aidan, and Eva Marie Bryer as the manically tarty Sash, go for choppy colloquial delivery.

Treadwell injects sinister venom into obscure lines. As he leads his desperately fawning fans back to his lair, his wrecked, reeling manner justifies his wandering talk. Meanwhile, in the flashbacks to his concerts he copes staggeringly well, portraying a heavy-duty sex symbol and pop singer. Charlie Round-Turner's music, inspired by Jimi Hendrix, does the job and Brooks stages scenes in bottle-strewn squalor or in boldly stylised formats.

The piece has rough edges: Sash and her bespectacled sidekick Janey look for too long like cartoon characters. The storyline has loose ends, but also a surprising twist in its tail. Ian Barnes's hack journalist can be irritatingly exaggerated, but the cast's energy is intensely charged. The dancing round the ghetto-blaster is at once ridiculous and liberated. The escalation into a rape is disturbingly grim. When the plot is not drifting, the playing can be darkly gripping.

KATE BASSETT

CLASSICAL CONCERTS

What happened to the fireworks?

Maurizio Pollini
Festival Hall

A recital given by a pianist of the supreme artistry of Maurizio Pollini is unlikely to be a wasted evening. And yet I think I was not alone in experiencing a sense of disappointment with his Festival Hall recital on Tuesday night. True, the hall was packed, and, true, the final chords of Chopin's Sonata in B flat minor brought generous applause. But the hall emptied alarmingly quickly and little attempt was made to persuade Pollini to offer more than one short encore.

The programme itself may have been partly to blame. A couple of Chopin Nocturnes, in addition to the Sonata, plus two pieces by Schumann (the Allegro, Op 8, and the Fantasie in C, Op 17) provide a musically satisfying programme, though one without any real danger. Maybe we have been hearing too many Young Turks pounding the keyboard recently, but Pollini's playing lacked sheer visceral excitement, and even climactic passages seemed underpowered.

This was particularly a problem in the Chopin Sonata, where thunderous fortissimo cadences went for little, and where forte/piano alternations in the first movement emerged with very little dynamic contrast. Nor was the leaping final section of the Fantasie's second movement quite the firework display it should be.

Of course, there were compensations aplenty. The two Nocturnes of Op 27 were delivered with consummate grace: a pellucid, supple singing line floated over a discreet, arpeggio accompaniment. The Presto triplet finale of the Sonata also afforded a breath-catching couple of minutes.

An even more magical moment occurred in the preceding *Funeral March*, when the major-key middle section was unfolded with the exquisitely refined poetic expression of which Pollini is a master. In the final movement of the Schumann Fantasie, too, the mediant modulations were handled with wonderful delicacy, as though a window were being opened on a succession of spellbinding new horizons.

For all this one can be duly grateful. Impossible, though, not to feel short-changed by the lack of energy, the half-hearted propulsion of movements such as the scherzo of the Chopin Sonata. Was Pollini tired? Or was he saving himself for the CD signing in the foyer afterwards?

BARRY MILLINGTON

Perfectly sweet

Vienna Boys Choir
Festival Hall

One of the few occasions when the Vienna Boys Choir abandon their sailor suits in public is when they pipe themselves aboard *The Golden Vanity*. The black patent leather pumps are discarded for deck shoes; the red, white and navy-blue sweaters of jolly jack tars, and the bright waistcoats and golden earrings of the pirates fly the flag for Benjamin Britten and the vaudeville he wrote for them to perform at the Aldeburgh Festival nearly 30 years ago.

Everything was shipshape at the start of their British tour. The stage of the Festival Hall was transformed into the trusty barques of the good British sailors and the dastardly Turkish pirates. Piping voices told the tale of the cabin boy who, in order to win the hand of the captain's daughter, sabotages the pirate ship and receives no more for his pains than a broken promise and a briny grave. Voices were true, actions stylised and obedient. Even the pirates were an exemplary crew.

Apart from a visit to Grimsby, this is about as near as the lads will get to the sea. And that is perhaps more musically significant than it may at first seem. For I have a notion that the landlocked metricality of their own prosody makes it genuinely difficult for these young voices to retune to the wayward bluster of our wind-swept island language. As it ebbed and flowed through the salty veins of Purcell and Britten it met a certain resistance in the metronomic direction of Thomas Böttcher and the rigidly phrased obedience of the boys.

This alone, though, could not quite explain the total lack of style and idiom in *Come, come ye Sons of Art*, nor the mechanical rhythmic life and monochrome dynamics of their *Ceremony of Carols*. There is many a German-speaking boys choir (not least the Tölzer) which does English music proud.

I eagerly awaited the VBC's return to home ground after the interval. Schubert's *Ständchen*, and an unaccompanied Austrian folk song, certainly showed off the bright timbre, warmed by vibrato, and made resinous by some true altos. But even the musical automata of their city's famous Clock Museum could scarcely compete with the mechanical prowess of their Johann Strauss waltzes and polkas. Two baskets of sweeties, draped in ribbons of Austrian scarlet and white, were laid at their feet. Feeling ever so slightly queasy, I left them tritsch-tratsching into the night and on to Aldeburgh, Grimsby, Kendal, Glasgow . .

HILARY FINCH

Swan of his dreams

DANCE

Swan Lake
Sadler's Wells

To all those who would invoke the sanctity of *Swan Lake*, a warning. Matthew Bourne has not only turned *Swan Lake* on its head, he has given it a sex change and catapulted it into another universe. His new production for Adventures in Motion Pictures is a radical take on the Russian classic that presents itself through striking imagery and some of the best performances you will ever see on a ballet stage. It will be a great hit.

So why must I offer a dissenting grumble? Because for all its inspired innovation and stunning execution (superb designs by Lez Brotherston) this *Swan Lake* suffers from an essential confusion. Bourne sends out so many ambiguous signals that motives become muddled as the conflict between fantasy and reality blurs the lines of narrative logic.

His *Swan Lake* is told through the eyes of the Prince. From the earliest scenes, when we see him as a boy, the oppression of royal duty is already closing in. As an adult things aren't much better. His inept effort at finding a girlfriend is a disaster, his gauche choice incurring the royal freeze from his mother. The Queen, in any case, is much too busy flirting with young officers to be bothered with her son's melancholic loneliness. The Prince's only escape from the asphyxiation of his life is the Swan, the visual manifestation of his dream-self, a creature strong and free.

Act II sees the Prince meeting his Swan. This is Bourne's master stroke. The metaphorical bird is at once frightening and fascinating; not a hint of effeminacy or irony colours the choreography. So well has Bourne prepared the ground that not a snigger was heard when the all-male corps de ballet made its entry. These swans are mean, vigorous and virile, attacking with their jumps, threatening with their mighty wings, unfettered in their greedy domination of territory. The famous pas de deux for Siegfried and Odette is transformed into a mesmerising and heartbreaking realisation of the Prince's need for emotional nourishment from the Swan.

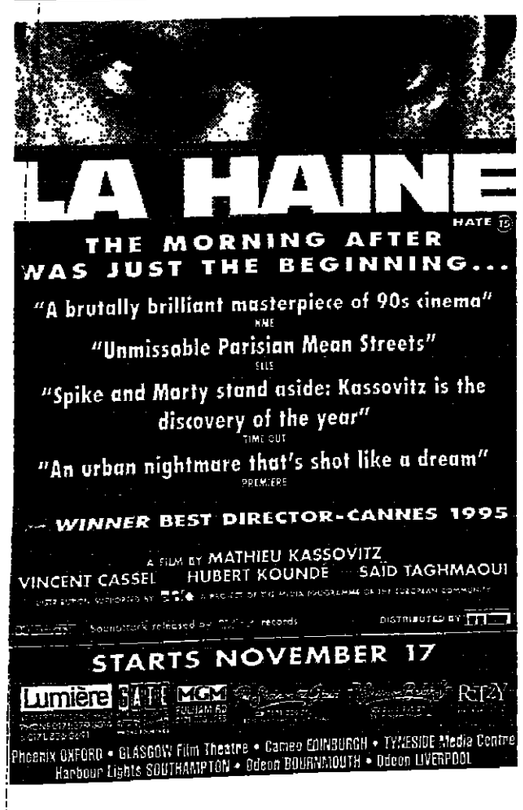
Then comes Act III — the royal ball — and the Swan is now the ultimate Don Juan (the other side of the Prince's alter ego). He's sexy and dangerous, and every woman in the room wants him. Especially the Queen. Their coupling is a bombshell, so hot it sends the disintegrating Prince into a frenzy of jealousy and hate. He pulls out a gun, someone is killed, and the Prince is dragged off to a loony bin. But who or what is the Prince trying to destroy? Who does he really lust after — his mother or the Swan, with whom he has just enjoyed a sexually explicit duet? And is all of this just a figment of his fevered, incoherent imagination? Act IV, for all its glorious delivery of death and transcendence, fails to reconcile the inconsistencies.

Yet, despite his clouding of the analytical waters, Bourne here announces a new force and resonance to his increasingly expressive choreography. Flaws and all, this is an important work.

Bourne could not have been better served by his cast. Scott Ambler, an AMP stalwart, was the most engaging of heroes, warm and communicative, a poignant and pained Prince. Fiona Chadwick (ex-Royal Ballet), as his ghastly mother, was sublimely nuanced, not a second passing without another wonderful dramatic flourish from her.

Adam Cooper, borrowed from Covent Garden, gave the performance of his life as the Swan. Electrifying as the seducer, searing in his sensual intensity, powerfully beautiful as the awesome avian: this truly was a swan to die for.

DEBRA CRAINE





Felipe Fernández-Armesto welcomes two contrasting histories which rescue women from sources dominated by men

Woman is a history-making creature



Women and the Enlightenment: in *A Game of Billiards* by Boilly (1807) a new informality in relations between the sexes is apparent; from *The Art of Louis-Léopold Boilly* by Susan L. Siegfried (Yale, £40)

Until Gabriello Falloppio sliced women open and found out what goes on inside, the womb was a baffling space which gave birth to monstrous myths about womanhood. With other 16th-century anatomists, he helped to start the Western world's biggest-ever revolution in perceptions of women. Before his time, it was possible to define woman as man *manqué* — Nature's bodged attempt to create an example of a better sex. Now her apparent deficiencies seemed moulded with the obvious perfection of divine design.

In roughly the same period, women's status was enhanced, if not transformed. In the late Middle Ages, there had been isolated and unencouraging examples of women in power as regents or sovereign queens. Now women practised "monstrous regiment" in unprecedented numbers. Some — like the flighty Mary, Queen of Scots and the manipulative Catherine de Medici — re-enacted in their lives cautionary tales of old Eve, but most earned praise for kingly "heart and stomach". Confessional struggles gave new importance to women's traditional domain — the guardianship of household routine. Mothers were the hearthside evangelists who watched over the transmission of doctrine and devotional lore from one generation to the next. Their choices ensured, in some cases and places, the survival of Roman Catholicism, in others the progress of Protestantism.

In Protestant and Catholic Europe alike, godly elites worked to formalise marriage customs, repress sexual misconduct and make marriage contracts verifiable and enforceable. Women who married by the rules could be better protected against male predators and more secure in the reversion of their property.

There could, however, be no corresponding increase in what feminists call women's "options": new economic opportunities on a sufficient scale were unavailable until the Industrial Revolution. Widowhood remained the best "option" for women who wanted freedom and influence. The most remarkable feature of women's predicament was that so many husbands survived it. In most of the continent in the early modern period, more detected domestic murders were committed by husbands than wives.

Two impressive new books examine women on either side of this 16th-century climacteric. A hint in Olwen Hufton's *The Prospect Before Her* suggests that she has named a daughter after "an author famed for satires involving women who wore the trousers and flouted the rules". But neither she nor Henrietta Leyser is an intellectual cross-dresser. Both obey the rules of scholarship and sex warfare alike with fairness and decorum. Both elicit truth without parading indignation. Both are generous in their judgments and restrained in their inferences. Neither is suckered by the rival fallacies which represent women as ever advancing towards modernity or retreating from matriarchy. Both have arranged their material in similar categories, though to the cycle of marriage, motherhood, widowhood and religious life, Hufton adds discrete treatment of prostitution, witchcraft and social protest. The message of both books is *plus ça change*. If we ask one of Leyser's characters, for instance, "How was 1066 for you?" she will reply with a dismissive shrug. Hufton sees her period as one of almost changeless equilibrium, punctured by traumas such as the Reformation and the French Revolution.

And yet the two books come from different worlds. Hufton writes in the tradition of "gender studies", of which some of her previous work has constituted a splendid ornament. The women in her book are overwhelmingly victims: "constructed" by male writers, beaten by husbands, reproved by confessors, repressed by conventions and cozened by the courts. She shows that wives in her period expected "respect, consideration and affection" but concentrates instead on the frustrations of their status and the burdens of their work. Leyser's lively intelligence takes nothing for granted and she has a robust preference for success stories: a queen of the Geats (ancestors of the Swedes) who wields "socially patterned" power; a 15th-century autobiographer who returns, "for Christ's sake", to nurse the dying, incontinent husband from whom she is legally separated.

Hufton belongs in the tradition of American and Continental scholarship, with its delight in conceptual problems and temptations to generalise; Leyser is at home in Oxford, with its love of the minute and the palpable, its relish for textual humanism. Hufton, who is unsurpassable in dredging and sifting huge quarries of sources, can write nothing as subtle, vivid or moving as Leyser's portrait of Christina of Markyate, the 12th-century nun "on the run" who inspired hermits and abbots with chaste love.

Hufton's volume almost justifies its 654 pages. But scientific and medical history is poorly used. Falloppio is not mentioned, even in the chapter on "Constructing Woman". The literature of "strong women" is skipped. Only two non-fictional women appear — briefly — in a forty-page chapter on "Marriage as a Goal". The author is more assured in handling documents than works of art: she claims, for example, citing a guidebook as authority, that Masaccio's *Expulsion from Eden* exonerates Adam. In a study of women, to suppose that cousin-marriage within seven degrees was prohibited in her era is a serious slip — after the time of Innocent III the limitation was only to within four degrees. Hufton's other errors are trivial and, in a work of this scope, humanly unavoidable. But Leyser's book — at half the length — seems error-free, though its scamper through the 14th and 15th centuries is breakneck.

Still, in different ways, both books show how the history of women can be rescued from sources dominated by men. It is remarkable how well they go together; contiguous in coverage, compatible in conclusions and complementary in qualities — *The Prospect Before Her* is solidity and range, *Medieval Women* is freshness and deftness.

Dr Fernández-Armesto is the author of Millennium *(Bantam) and* The Times Illustrated History of Europe.

THE PROSPECT BEFORE HER
A History of Women in the West, 1500-1800
By Olwen Hufton
HarperCollins, £25

MEDIEVAL WOMEN
A Social History of Women in England 450-1500
By Henrietta Leyser
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £25

What happened to us after the deluge

Roger Scruton

ENLIGHTENMENT'S WAKE
By John Gray
Routledge, £19.99



Gray: post-everything?

John Gray is unusual among the younger generation of British political scientists. He is not left-wing; he is convinced of the moral and spiritual evil of Marxism and its legacy; he accepts the devastating argument against the possibility of a socialist economy mounted by Ludwig von Mises and Friedrich von Hayek; he recognises that liberalism is not the answer to modern life, but merely a way of deifying the question; he senses the vapidity of the idea of progress, and the emptiness of the promises of the Enlightenment; and yet he is not a conservative. For conservatism, says Gray, is really a "modernist" doctrine, a child of the Enlightenment, as ripe for the dustheap of history as the liberal and socialist ideologies against which it has taken its quixotic stand. A post-modern politics, in his view, must be post-conservative as well as post-socialist.

More surprisingly, Gray believes that it must be post-liberal too. Liberalism, for him, is the quintessential embodiment of the "Enlightenment project" — the project of founding a universal morality on premises derived from reason alone. In fact, he argues, liberalism has simply elevated one set of values — cosmopolitan, egalitarian, and purged of the sacred and the miraculous — over all other contenders for our loyalty, while offering no reason to endorse these values that can survive its own inherent scepticism. Liberalism is not the neutral thing that it pretends to be; nor is it especially tolerant. Although liberals make a great show of their toleration, it is a toleration which extends only to other liberals: a fact which can be abundantly witnessed in American universities today, where the latest liberal causes are enshrined in codes of "political correctness" which can be violated only at the risk of one's career. For Gray a post-modern politics must stand above liberalism itself, and look serenely on all ideologies as equal contenders for a prize that is hardly worth the struggle to obtain it, since worth is itself a thing of the past.

Such, if I read him correctly, is Gray's argument. And it is expressed, in these short essays, with great verve and conviction — indeed, with a warmth that betrays the author's ardent need to believe something better. For the end of the Enlightenment project, as Gray describes it, is really the end of belief. Those who engaged in the project did so because they recognised no moral or spiritual authority outside human reason; and the supposed discovery that reason cannot fill the God-shaped hole that reason itself created, is the discovery that nothing matters.

The crisis through which we are living comes from having placed all our trust in a faculty that is destined, according to Gray, to betray us. He applauds Alasdair MacIntyre's *After Virtue*, in which this criticism of the Enlightenment project was most recently made (though the seeds of the argument are there in Burke, in Hegel and in Nietzsche, too).

Like MacIntyre, however, he both overestimates the power of human thinking, and also underestimates it. Marx may have been exaggerating when he argued that life determines consciousness and not consciousness life. Nevertheless, it is surely not the failure of an intellectual project that has caused the moral vacuum in which we find ourselves: for it is a vacuum in the hearts of people who do not live through ideas, and whose values are the spontaneous products, when they exist, of an experience of community which no amount of philosophising could ever generate or destroy. The crisis of the post-modern consciousness can be safely confined to Oxford colleges — that is what Oxford colleges are for.

But Gray underestimates the power of human thinking too. True, the liberal tradition has not succeeded in establishing an objective morality. The failure of one attempt, though, does not entail the failure of all. I believe that Aristotle succeeded in the project that defeated Kant and that Aristotle's morality of virtue has shone through the entire Christian tradition. But Aristotle's arguments are difficult. If the Enlightenment project has failed, that is partly because it has been conducted by people whose mental equipment is easily biased towards foregone liberal conclusions, and easily exhausted in the attempt to reach them. Just because history has sided with the feeble-minded, we should not conclude that the task which they set themselves cannot be accomplished.

Indeed, Gray's "post-Enlightenment" posture, like every other form of post-modernism, displays the very weakness against which he has directed such a powerful battery of criticism. Like the Enlightenment thinkers whom he most despises, he believes that ideas have a history, and that an idea whose time has passed is no longer a serious contender for our belief in it. There is, for him, no "going back" to views that the world has discarded — and he castigates the present reviewer for the "quixotic aestheticism" displayed by his defence of old-fashioned values in a post-modern world.

I freely admit, however, to being pre-modern. I agree with Gray, that liberal socialist and other such modernist outlooks have exhausted their credibility. But I believe that they have done so because they have been refuted, and not because "history has moved on". To think that we must now go forward into some "post-modern" predicament is to renounce the most precious of God's gifts to us — the gift of reason, which tells us that if we have followed a path into chaos, then it is wise to retrace our steps.

Gray does not lack this gift; but he distrusts it. Yet, in his heart, he is as pre-modern as I am: hence the passion of his prose, which seethes with a justified indignation against the crimes of our century, precisely because Gray, like the rest of us, knows that they really are crimes, and that this judgment upon them is objectively valid.

Multitude in the valley of decision

Nigella Lawson

ON BEING JEWISH
By Julia Neuberger
Heinemann, £16.99



Julia Neuberger: rabbi who believes in continuity more than theology

BRITAIN has never had a confident, conspicuous secular Jewish tradition in the way that the United States has. This does not truly say something about Jewish identity: rather, how it is discussed. Whether here or in America, however, it is becoming ever less easy to debate anyway. Race is an increasingly inflammatory issue, and nowhere less than in a discussion of Jewishness, since the notion that Jewishness is itself a question of race is at best erroneous, at worst a tenet of anti-Semitic belief.

And yet, an airing of thoughts of what it might mean to be Jewish surely cannot mean anything much unless we are discussing secular Judaism. We know very well — or we can imagine — what being Jewish means to the religious Jews. The curious fact is that it continues to mean something to Jews who are not religious. How could it?

Julia Neuberger's fascinating account — part memoir, part lively analysis — does in some way answer this, though part of the book's appeal is that it cannot but beg more questions than it provides answers for. Neuberger's answers cannot be the reader's answers; but, in the well-established Jewish tradition, her findings and experiences expect and engender interpretation, criticism, engagement and at times brow-beating disbelief; *On Being Jewish* is one half of a dialogue it is happy to provoke.

If I said it was strange that Rabbi Neuberger's book went some way to explaining what Jewishness could mean to those who are not religious, it is simply because her profession, her calling, would seem to deny her access to that area of Jewishness. This turns out not to be the case, for the startling reason that (to this reader at least) she seems not to be religious herself.

"I did not become a rabbi through a passionately held belief in Jewish theology," she writes. "I did not intend to become a rabbi when I went up to Cambridge to read Assyriology. I ended up reading Hebrew as well as Assyriology, but only because Hebrew, as far as I was concerned, was a soft option." Later, as a rabbi, she saw her role as a teacher, someone who could "add to Jewish continuity".

"Where" she asks "is the religious belief in that? No Christian would wish to become an ordained priest with a vocation to study and teach but no faith: yet I am not unusual among Jews." For Judaism, she explains, is law-based, text-based, "a religion of books more than a religion of faith".

And yet, I do not quite understand why, if one does not believe in a divine guidance behind the laws constructed, one should be inclined to follow them. Neither does Neuberger. She doesn't keep kosher, is "ambivalent" about the practice of circumcision, does not believe that the Torah was given by God to Moses on Mount Sinai. She is not at such odds with all the tenets of Judaism: on the whole she is prepared to go along with what she feels is the spirit of the law rather than the leter.

IN THIS vein, it seems that although she disputes the divine inspiraton behind the scriptures, she is prepaed to believe that they were written by men who believed themselves to be directly inspired by God. I am at a loss to understand why that should make any difference, as it appears to do for her. Why should laws written by those merely under the delusion that they were taking dictation from God hold any authority, especially over someone who declares herself to be of a "rationalistic inclination"? (Incidentally, she accuses the Chief Rabbi of holding what some might see as an irrational approach to religion. I cannot but ask: what, pray, is the rational one?) Perhaps this is explained by a mystifying — given what's gone before — confession at the end of this book: "I do in fact believe in God. I have what some people have described as a rather peasant-like, uncritical belief."

A belief in the importance of "Jewish continuity" — the family, the duties, the communal obligations — is, in a sense, Neuberger's true faith. Here she is devout, and impressive. But Jewish identity, non-religious Jewish identity, seems to me to be like the fairies; it exists only if you choose to believe it does. And Julia Neuberger's spirited account of why she has made that choice is as compelling as any thriller: not so much a whodunnit as a whydoit.

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From Hitler to Adenauer: a tale of two nations

Alistair Horne

on a British officer's role in the destiny of Germany

When I was at Cambridge just after the war, one of my lecturers was Noel Annan. He was shortly to become, at 39, the youngest ever Provost of King's College. His subject was "Social and Political Thought in the 19th Century". After four years of intellectual stultification in the Army (working briefly in a similar branch of intelligence to Lieutenant-Colonel Annan), I found his course just too packed with ideas, and gave it up — to my eternal regret.

The same kind of brilliant compression and synthesis distinguishes his latest book. But, infinitely readable, it is not to be abandoned. In a mere 250 pages, he aims to combine a review of wartime intelligence against Germany with the early Allied postwar efforts to reconstruct the ruins, overlaid by his own experiences in both. The problem that confronted his publishers is suggested by the rather curious title they chose, *Changing Enemies*. The metamorphosis is, of course, between Germany and Russia. But there are also the enemies of good sense within: the hopelessly off-target Allied Intelligence officers, and the "low-level zealots" seeking to keep the postwar Germans in colonial subjection, with whom men like Annan had to wrestle.

Lord Annan reflects on whether the excessive secrecy essential to preserving Ultra, the method of decrypting German wartime codes, might not have militated against its operational effectiveness. Often critical intelligence reached formations too late. Yet, in Crete in 1941, where careless talk by the Luftwaffe gave Bletchley precise details of the airborne landings — "The sole occasion on which intelligence gave our commanders a cast-iron guarantee of success" — the British commander, Freyberg, ignored it. By only the narrowest of margins, Crete was lost.

There is revisionism at its best in Annan's repeated praise for Churchill's intrinsic understanding of the value of wartime intelligence — "the greatest gift he brought was his personality". In September 1944, after the Allied liberation of Paris, Churchill was alone in not succumbing to the "happy hypothesis" that Germany would now collapse, as in 1918. But he was outnumbered by senior operatives like Major-General Kenneth Strong, Eisenhower's (British) intelligence chief at his Supreme Headquarters (SHAEF).

All too often, Strong was wrong. In spring 1941 he turned a blind eye to Annan's suggestions that Hitler might be preparing to attack Russia. In September 1944, he failed to realise that Hitler was planning to deny the vital port of Antwerp to the Allies. Equally his SHAEF team, ensconced at Versailles, ignored the warning signs of the impending, disastrous German Ardennes, instead talking alarmingly about "pushing the Russians back to their prewar frontiers". In general, Annan feels, Allied Intelligence erred notably in its inability "get inside Hitler's mind and think like him" — as opposed to understanding the mentality of a rational Western commander.

CHANGING ENEMIES
The Defeat and Regeneration of Germany
By Noel Annan
HarperCollins, £18

As a former foreign correspondent in Germany just after the war, what drew me most to *Changing Enemies*, however, is its depiction of the dilemmas facing the Allies after VE-Day. The state of utter devastation in Germany is admirably described. There were the "low-level zealots" on the British Control Commission, intent on carving out a 20-year-long career for themselves. In harmony with the deluded wartime scheme of Roosevelt's Secretary of the Treasury, Henry Morgenthau Jr, to reduce Germany to a deindustrialised rural society ("a gift to Goebbels", says Annan), they set out to "stamp on the tradition on which the German nation had been built."

Then there were the less short-sighted idealists, like Lance Pope, Robert Birley and the Jewish Labour MP for Edmonton, Austen Albu — and young Annan himself — who had believed in the regeneration of a democratic Germany. Fortunately, their idea triumphed, and 50 years of a "good Germany" has vindicated them.

In principle, the Allied concept of "denazification" (which, Annan notes interestingly, now confronts *mutatis mutandis* the Germans themselves in their handling of the East German Stasi) was respectable. Yet it led to impossible consequences; when there was a coalmine explosion in the British Zone, three British officers died — because the safety officials had been denazified, and sacked.

But the British Occupation left much to be proud of, as most Germans recognise today: there was the transformation of the German police and the creation of a responsible trade union movement (better than Attlee's Britain could do for itself), the establishment of freedom of speech, and re-education brought about by Birley's *Die Brücke*.

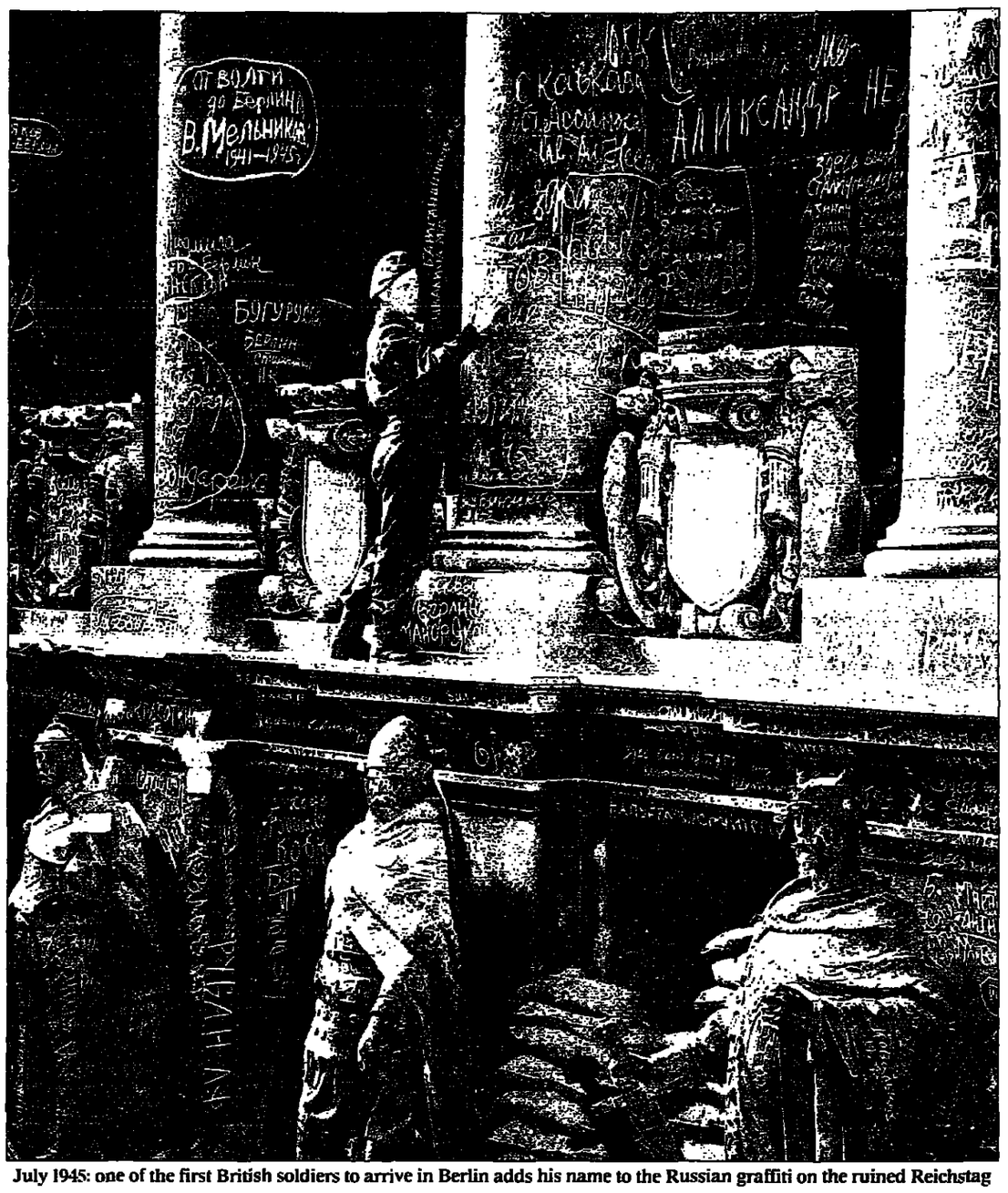
Especially good are Annan's recollections of Konrad Adenauer and Kurt Schumacher, the two political giants in late 1940s West Germany. Of Adenauer, sacked as Mayor of Cologne for incompetence by a British brigadier (rightly, says Annan), he reflects: "How little did I realise in 1945 that the trifling dispute about the imposition upon the German Government of the British system of elected mayor and permanent town clerk was a finger post pointing to a discord between Britain and the European Union in the future." In Konrad Adenauer, he recognised "the virtues of that 'other' Germany, which so many Englishmen had admired for over a century. I wanted to listen to him."

Equally he recognised from those early days that Britain would never have a chance of "placating Adenauer" — all his life he had been devoted to an understanding with France. Twenty years later Harold Macmillan and the Foreign Office failed to grasp this. For the veteran, uncompromising Socialist, Kurt Schumacher, one-armed and physically wrecked by life in the concentration camps, who once protested angrily to the patronising British: "*Wir sind kein Negervolk*" ("we're not niggers"), Annan felt affection — but for Adenauer, admiration: "Unlike Gladstone he was an old man not in a hurry."

If *Changing Enemies* has a fault, it is that there is not enough of Annan's own voice — particularly as to what he was really thinking at the time in those complex days of the Occupation. But he leaves the reader in no doubt about his respect for the achievements built by the West Germans upon the rocky foundations of the Allied Control Commission.

Annan movingly describes how the Allied Forces' half-century in Berlin came to an end in 1994: "The limousine bearing Chancellor Kohl appeared and, like a noble tanker, edged towards its moorings ... flanked by his tugs, the three ambassadors ... The Occupation was over."

Alistair Horne is the author with David Montgomery of The Lonely Leader: Monty, 1944–45 *(Pan).*



July 1945: one of the first British soldiers to arrive in Berlin adds his name to the Russian graffiti on the ruined Reichstag

When wizards fall out

Natasha Fairweather

THE PRESTIGE
By Christopher Priest
Simon & Schuster, £15.99

Magicians jealously guard their professional secrets, because the trickery which lies behind illusion is, once exposed, disappointingly banal. Be it mirrors, trap doors, convincing doubles or dexterous sleight of hand, the curious spectator must necessarily feel cheated when the workings of magic are explained. For magic to be pleasurable, the audience must willingly suspend its disbelief and enjoy being bamboozled.

Christopher Priest — whose ninth novel, *The Prestige*, tells of the near-fatal rivalry between two turn-of-the-century magicians — has failed to absorb this lesson, though his own characters repeatedly articulate it. The plot draws its tension exclusively from their mutual quest to uncover one another's secrets. However, once the reader is in possession of the facts — the first explanation banal and the second the implausible stuff of horror fiction — disappointment is the dominant emotion.

Another weakness is that the narrative relies almost entirely on reported action. A brief, active modern-day section at the beginning sets up the premise of the novel. Andrew Westley is a young reporter who is adopted and knows little of his origins, but has always felt the unexplained psychic presence of a twin. He is invited on false pretenses to the home of a hard-drinking young aristocrat named Katherine Angier. He is supposed to be following up a story about the founder of a mystic sect called The Rapturous Church of Christ who has achieved the not inconsiderable feat of bilocating from his prison in America to the Derbyshire bedside of a dying member of his flock — appearing to be in both places at once.

Once Westley arrives in Derbyshire neither he nor the reader hears any more about the agile Father Franklin. Instead, we are drawn into an old quarrel which has modern repercussions. For Angier's grandfather on his death left behind a detailed diary about his battle for supremacy on the stage with the great Alfred Borden, as well as a copy of the clandestine memoirs of his rival. And it seems Borden was none other than Andrew Westley's blood grandfather.

From this point on, the story is pieced together by way of the halting, and often deliberately opaque, reminiscences and diary entries of the two magicians. It is a tale of *doppelgängers* and of deceit and danger as both magicians race to harness the newly discovered medium of electricity in their magic-making.

The "prestige" of the title is defined for those unversed in the lexicon of magic as follows: "The third stage [of an illusion] is sometimes called the effect, or the prestige, and this is the product of magic." A prestige is the measure of a magician's worth. It can be as simple as a rabbit pulled out of a hat or, as is the case here, something a great deal more impressive and sinister.

Priest is an experienced novelist and an unpretentious stylist. He is also the father of twins. But he seems only passingly interested in the intriguing issues of identity and individuality raised by his cast of *doppelgängers*. Without this depth, reading *The Prestige* is comparable to seeing a slick card trick performed. You admire the author's dexterity and his showmanship. But you come away feeling a little conned.

Everything but the kitchen sink

Clive Fisher

TERENCE RATTIGAN
A Biography
By Geoffrey Wansell
Fourth Estate, £20

At first sight, Terence Rattigan's blandly handsome features, caught in the flashlit photographs of Shaftesbury Avenue premieres, seem as non-committal as a matinée idol's; it is only on closer inspection that one discerns the vulnerability, the mute appeal for approval, that betrays his diplomatic eyes. Even in his palmy days he looked urbane apprehensively; now, long dead and longer discredited, he haunts the red plush stalls, a charming ghost with an imploring smile, appealing for the rehabilitation which continues, just, to elude him, despite various attempts to secure his place in the pantheon of significant and serious modern playwrights.

Rattigan's yearning for recognition was lifelong, as was the competitiveness that accompanied it: although a diplomat's son, he took time to learn the gentleman's wisdom that success should appear effortless. At 19 he was still miscalculating: he forfeited his place in the Harrow XI on the eve of the Eton-Harrow cricket match because revision for his Oxford scholarship, necessarily clandestine and candlelit, had strained his vision. The analogue of endeavour disguised was art made artless: in his maturity, when nobody witnessed the painful struggles of creation, he amazed critics and public alike with the naturalism and apparent simplicity of his dialogue.

Born in 1911 of Anglo-Irish ancestry, Terence Rattigan should have been an uncomplicated Edwardian, confident of his handsomeness, of his happiness at school and Oxford, even of the mighty panoply of British imperialism. But as though in a play by Pinero or Maugham, whose traditions of well-crafted drama he was to perpetuate, there were guilty secrets. His father, Frank, was an incorrigible womaniser who was eventually cashiered by the Foreign Office for his liaison with Princess Elizabeth of Romania. The disgrace entailed financial and psychological penalties; and although Terence thwarted paternal attempts to turn him to diplomacy, he could do nothing about his father's overt philandering or the humiliation he sensed in his mother.

He consoled her with famous devotion. Yet he always missed his father's love and later traced his homosexuality to that deprivation. Terence's sexuality, a guiltier secret even than Frank's, was the subterranean source of his plays: its illegality sequestered him and gave an edge to the theme he made his own: the inability of the English bourgeoisie to understand, or even describe, the wanderings of the heart. Whatever they suspected, Rattigan's parents never knew his leanings. For his public, he projected a persona similar to Noel Coward's — the *boulevardier* in permanent chaperonage of beautiful actresses.



Rattigan: *boulevardier* who masked his homosexuality

Privately, things were different. While still at Harrow he was involved with the racing correspondent of the *Daily Express*. When success came, he was free to choose between struggling actors — such as Kenneth Morgan, whose suicide precipitated *The Deep Blue Sea* — and millionaires like Chips Channon.

Whatever the imperatives behind Rattigan's public and literary obliqueness, they counted for nothing after the advent of kitchen-sink drama. For the last 20 years of his life his articulate emotional diplomacy was despised by fashionable opinion and reviled by its spokesman, the implacably liberated Kenneth Tynan. Coward, also circuitous and also a scapegoat, lived to see himself restored; but then he embodied the smoky glitter of the Twenties.

Although the best of Rattigan now seems less dated, because less ideological, than much kitchen-sink complaining, his plays suffer by evoking the dismal Fifties. Perhaps when that decade achieves the glamour of history, Rattigan's revival, for so long imminent, may endure.

His cause is scarcely furthered, I am afraid, by this book, with its tabloid prose and its tediously insistent comments on the dangers of Rattigan's love-life. Wansell is conscientious in his analyses of Rattigan's plays and lucrative Hollywood scripts: but he never supplies his sources and depends far too much on po-faced anonymous remarks. All biographers know that frank interviewees are hard to find. But they also know that the first requirement of any good cause, including the rehabilitation of their subjects, is a supply of admirers unashamed to lend their names to the effort.

Lilliputian in Gulliver's shoes

Sean French

THE CURIOUS ENLIGHTENMENT OF PROFESSOR CARITAT
By Steven Lukes
Verso, £14.95

THE AMERICAN philosopher Richard Rorty is quoted on the back cover of this novel, describing it as "a good introduction to current debates in sociopolitical philosophy". It would be difficult to conceive of a less enticing accolade for a work of fiction — even the first novel of a distinguished Oxford political philosopher.

My heart sank as I discovered (on page 7) that the name of the protagonist, Nicholas Caritat, derives from the Enlightenment philosopher, Marquis Jean-Marie-Antoine-Nicolas Caritat de Condorcet. Look him up and you discover that he was identified during the Terror when, disguised as a servant and asked by an innkeeper how many eggs he wanted in his omelette, he replied: "Twelve." Thus he revealed himself as an aristocrat. (Steven Lukes tells this story himself.) He is a symbol of optimistic, progressive rationality, cruelly destroyed by the forces of chaos.

Caritat, a professor of politics, is arrested by the authorities of the dictatorship of Militaria. Sprung by the underground, he is sent off on a mission (under the covername, needless to say, of Dr Pangloss) to equally allegorical neighbouring countries in order to decide which is the ideal political system to live under. He visits Utilitaria, in which individual rights are entirely subsumed into the creation of the happiness of the greatest number. This is flagrantly unjust, so Caritat flees to Polygopolis, capital of Communitaria, where the rights of individuals are so entrenched as to form another kind of dictatorship of isolated interest groups.

In an amusing dream, Caritat visits Proletaria, the Marxist Utopia in which the now classless people are free to work harmoniously, fish, hunt and create art, as Marx predicted in one of his less rigorous moments. Finally, he moves to Libertaria, in which everything has been privatised, community has vanished, and Caritat finds himself a denizen of cardboard city.

BY THIS STAGE of the story, I had become tired of Lukes's arid, ungrounded allegorical narrative. He clearly intends this work to follow in a tradition of allegories and satires: *Pilgrim's Progress* and *Candide* are referred to, and the book's structure obviously echoes that of *Gulliver's Travels*. But it is impossible to imagine a child or young teenager reading this book for its imagination, its narrative verve, the pungency of its language or its humour. Since one of the themes of the book is the collision between abstract ideas and brute reality, the lack of particularity with which that reality is portrayed really matters.

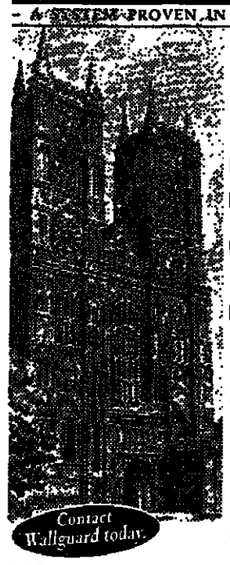


Lukes: donnish allegorist

Lukes's conclusion — all too explicit — is that disaster is caused when fanatics pursue one desirable objective — freedom, say, or order — at the expense of the others. These pages, showing the need to reconcile conflicting principles, are the most eloquent of the book, animated by a sense of difficulty and of hope.

In its more successful moments, Lukes's narrative tends to suggest praise such as "interesting" or "thought-provoking", which is not necessarily a small achievement. But it misses a lot of what fiction can do for us.

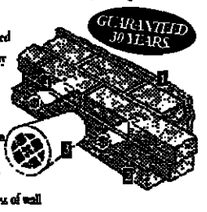
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Protests flying in the face of logic

THE WORLD descended on Earls Court this week for the World Travel Market in a frenzied attempt to lure the British holiday-maker. From Leeds to Libya, from Florida to Florence, everyone was determined to persuade tour operators and travel agents that their particular destination was *the* place to send clients. And it is surprising how much of the world has turned into "paradise", just how many "lands of contrasts" there are all filled with "welcoming, friendly people" ready to give visitors the "holiday of a lifetime".



The Travel Business

HARVEY ELLIOTT

The message has certainly sunk in that travel and tourism is big business and that an increase in visitor numbers of just a few percentage points can have a welcome impact on a resort's, or a country's, income.

Even Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, explained this week how the British economy benefits by £36 billion a year from tourism.

The vast majority of the 21 million visitors to Britain a year come by air and 124 million flights from Britain were made in total last year. Over the next five years the number of airline passengers jetting around the world is expected to increase at 5 per cent a year to reach 1.5 billion by 1999.

The number of international airline passengers will have risen to 468.5 million before the end of the decade, says the International Air Transport Association, with the biggest growth in China and Chile.

Already delays and congestion are getting worse, but despite all the frustrations, the world has an insatiable appetite for more air travel. And the World Travel Market showed that the industry is determined to feed it.

But just a few miles away there was an equally fierce fight going on to make sure that such ambitions are thwarted. At the inquiry into plans to build a fifth terminal at Heathrow this week the British Airways chief executive, Sir Colin Marshall, laid out his arguments for the new terminal, which will enable Heathrow to handle an additional 30 million travellers a year.

He was instantly accused of "deceiving" the public with "worthless assurances" by protest groups and the local borough of Hillingdon described his evidence as "a disgrace".

If only there was an easy way, both to allow more people to travel and yet to provide those who live under the flight paths with peace.

Maybe potential travellers from China or from Chile could be banned from travelling. We in Britain, and especially those who live near airports, must be allowed to do so at will, of course.

Daft? Yes. But no sillier than attacks which take the debate no further forward.

WORLD TRAVEL MARKET 1995: Reports from London on a studio battle,

Dinosaur theme park war

BY DAVID CHURCHILL

DINOSAURS may have become extinct many millions of years ago, but this week they managed to rekindle a long dispute between Universal Studios Florida — 50 per cent owned by the Rank Organisation in Britain — and the Walt Disney company.

Universal Studios yesterday unveiled details of its $2 billion (about £1.2 billion) theme park at Orlando in Florida. When it opens in 1999, the park will double the size of its existing film studios attraction.

To be known as the "Islands of Adventure", Universal's theme park will include a special area based on *Jurassic Park*, the Oscar-winning film by Steven Spielberg, with realistic life-sized dinosaurs utilising sophisticated audio-animatronic technology.

However, Universal officials are incensed that its biggest rival, Walt Disney World, now plans to open its own dinosaur attraction a full year before Universal's Jurassic Park is operating.

Disney's new Wild Animal Kingdom theme park, due to open in 1998, will include, according to Disney, "our most advanced audio-animatronics to bring the giants of the Cretaceous era to life as a major thrill attraction". Visitors will be able to traverse a primeval forest to mingle with dinosaurs just as happens in the film version of *Jurassic Park*.



The movie *Jurassic Park* has spawned two rival attractions

"The timing is slightly unfortunate," Fred Lounsberry, marketing vice-president of Universal Studios Florida, says. "But we will still be the only theme park to have the official Jurassic Park dinosaur attraction."

Universal's irritation at having Disney pip it in the dinosaur stakes follows a similar success for Disney in 1989 when it opened its film studios theme park in Orlando a year ahead of Universal.

Joe Flower, author of an unofficial biography of Michael Eisner, the Disney chairman, says that the Disney move "was greeted with fury by Universal". The latter had been planning a film studios theme park in Orlando since the early 1980s, while Disney had only announced its studios in 1985.

Universal executives even claimed that Eisner had stolen the idea after it had shown him confidential plans of the studios before he joined Disney in 1984, a charge which Disney rejects.

Universal says that history has repeated itself since it first announced its plans for Jurassic Park in 1993, two years before Disney. While Disney officially denies any attempt to pre-empt the new Universal attraction, it is clear that the sluggish demand from American holidaymakers visiting Disney World has made it extremely sensitive to plans by its rivals.

The new Universal theme park will be a major challenge to Disney, with hotels and an evening entertainment complex rivalling Disney's "Pleasure Island".

Meanwhile, the increasing sophistication of leisure attractions worldwide has forced Madame Tussaud's Waxworks in central London to spend at least £1 million on revamping its infamous Chamber of Horrors to make it more scary.

The development is due to be completed next spring and will include new interactive scenes depicting Vlad the Impaler, otherwise known as Dracula, and a guillotine execution.

Tourism 'can save culture'

LONDONERS were this week urged to welcome the capital's growing number of tourists as the real guardians of their cultural way of life, *Harvey Elliott writes.*

Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, told delegates to the CBI conference in Birmingham that Londoners were "privileged to enjoy the theatre capital of the world".

"But who helps to keep those theatres going?" she asked. "The tourists who buy two-thirds of West End tickets."

She told the CBI's first tourism debate that the tourism industry contributed £36 billion a year to Britain and earned more from exports than North Sea oil, financial services or civil aviation. And everyone benefited, she said.

Tourism could have created 150,000 more jobs over the past 15 years and earned £9 billion in extra revenue but for the "complacency" of the industry and the Government, said Sir John Egan, chief executive of airports operator BAA.

Standards needed to be improved, hotels should be refurbished and more affordable accommodation for visitors should be built, he told the CBI.

Sir John attacked planners for the "cumbersome" way they dealt with applications for new hotels and called on groups such as English Heritage to do more to encourage the tourist industry.

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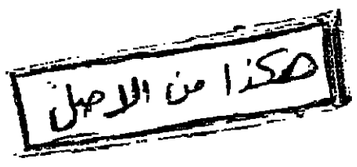
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a plan to find more Francophiles, a move upmarket for a Greek island and a backlash in the beach bars of Goa

France spends more to win back British

BY STEVE KEENAN

FRANCE is increasing its promotions budget in Britain by 40 per cent in an attempt to reverse a slump in summer holiday bookings.

More than nine million Britons visited France this year, making it the most popular destination for overseas trips. But daytrippers, short breaks, Euro Disney and Paris accounted for the growth.

The French Tourist Office is more concerned about the 10 per cent fall in the main summer holiday market, fearing Francophiles will go elsewhere because of the exchange rate. The ski market to France is also down, by 20 per cent.

The French Government has given the French Tourist Office a 15 per cent budget rise. In turn, the FTO has given Britain the biggest increase of all its overseas offices.

The £3.5m budget will be partly used on television advertising, posters and joint campaigns with tour operators selling France.

"We thought we would lose market share this summer with people sitting at home and watching the exchange rate," said the FTO president, Jean-Marc Janaillac, at the World Travel Market this week. "We have to attract them back to France and go after new markets."

The main reason for the summer decline is the strength of the franc, stubbornly below eight to the pound.

Brittany Ferries and French Life both reported people taking shorter French holidays as a result this summer, down from 12 nights to 10.5 on average, says French Life.

It is early days but France has also suffered, like other destinations, in failing to win early bookings. Cresta brings out its main French brochure next month but Keith Byrne, national sales manager, says: "I don't think we will miss much, maybe 100 passengers. There isn't a rush."

Keycamp has cut prices for July and August peak season holidays by 5 per cent for bookings made before January 16. John Baines, marketing director, says: "Demand has been weaker than usual — but May, June and September holidays are selling extremely well."

It is the value-for-money message that the French Tourist Office is pushing for the summer market, the argument being that it is cheap to get there, and good value for self-catering families staying in gites or mobile homes.

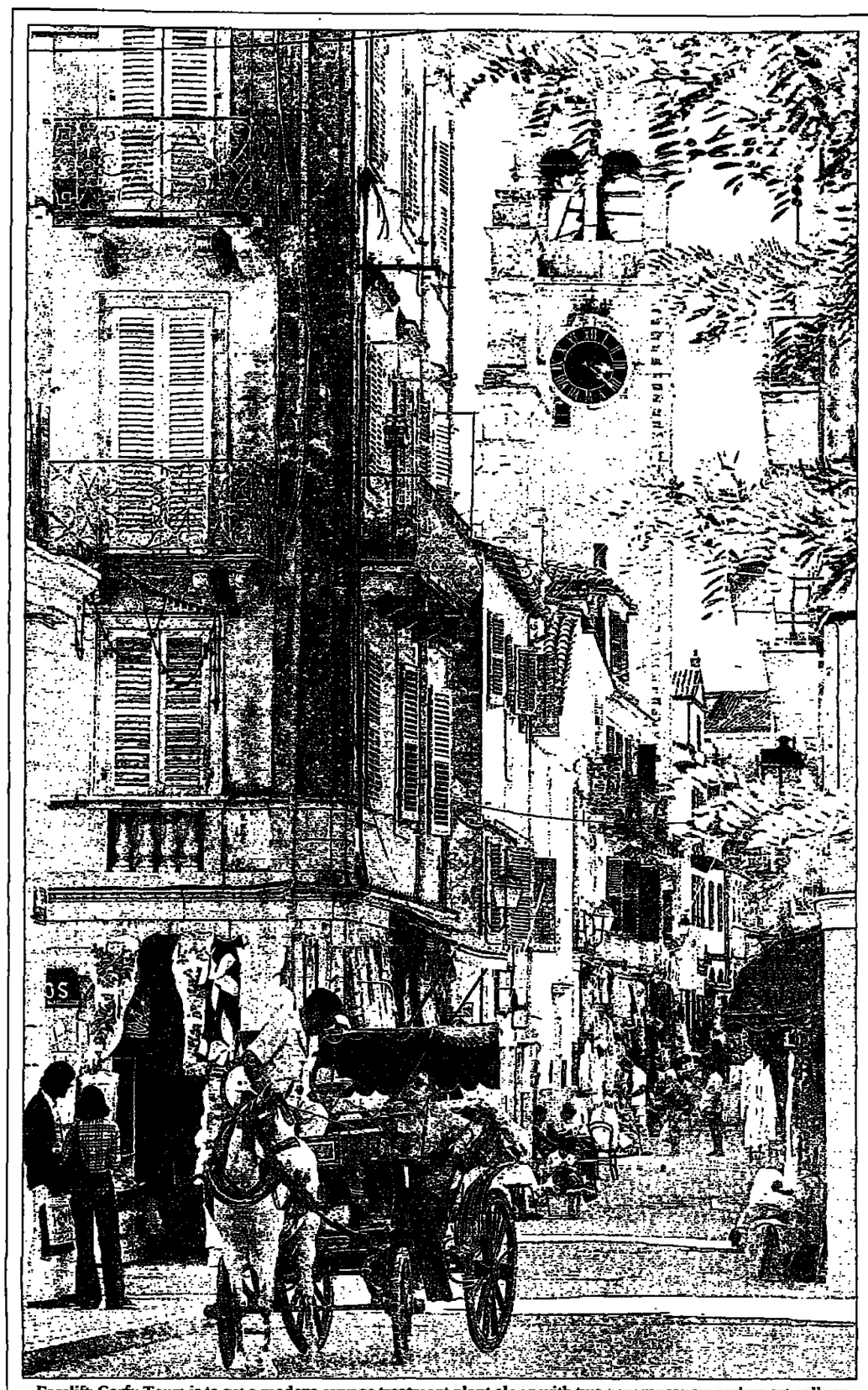
"It is the little extras like ice-creams, beers and soft drinks that people are wary of," says Dennis Fabri, marketing director of the French Tourist Office in the UK.

The efforts to attract people to France will again be boosted by the prospect of another ferry price war in 1996.

Hoverspeed this week joined Le Shuttle in offering discounts on advance Dover-Calais bookings. The company is knocking 60 per cent off peak-season prices for bookings made by February 28 — reducing a standard return from £327 to £129. Le Shuttle is quoting 20 per cent off fares booked by the new year, but has said it will review prices in its second edition brochure.

All ferry companies have now released prices for 1996 except Brittany Ferries and Stena Line, which are expected shortly. Apart from the advance booking offers, all have kept prices roughly in line. P&O has increased fares by 6 per cent, Le Shuttle by 1 per cent and Sally Line by 7 per cent in 1995.

It means top prices on Dover-Calais peak season crossings of P&O (£339), Le Shuttle (£328), Hoverspeed (£327), Sea France (£320) and Sally on Ramsgate — Dunkirk, £319.



Facelift: Corfu Town is to get a modern sewage treatment plant along with two new museums and an art gallery

Corfu cleans up its image

BY TONY DAWE

DRAMATIC plans to clean up Corfu and to make the island, which is one of the most popular choices for British holidaymakers, a more upmarket destination were announced in London yesterday.

They include a new biological sewage works, a programme to tidy the beaches, the promotion of "environmental sensitivity" among locals and visitors and a £9 million scheme to renovate buildings and services in the centre of Corfu Town.

"We realise that in the past there have been problems with our infrastructure, our environment and the services we offer," Andreas Pangratis, the elected Normarch of Corfu, said as the plans were launched at World Travel Market. "With the preservation of Corfu's rich culture, history and architecture top of the agenda, however, we will soon be in a position to attract the more discerning traveller."

He added that, all over the island, facilities and services are being upgraded in an effort to attract more families. The least romantic of these is the construction of the new sewage works, which will be in operation by next spring, to deal with waste from Corfu Town.

Chrysanthos Sarlis, the Mayor of Corfu Town, added that a history museum, a modern municipal art gallery and a new archaeological museum are being created.

Underground power and television cables will be laid, together with new drainage, to improve housing conditions and access for visitors. The changes will not, however, affect the cricket pitch in the main square.

Although British tourists continue to account for more than half the visitors to Corfu, the island's new tourism promotion board is keen to point out that "bars selling English food do not outnumber Greek establishments and you are just as likely to see tourists arriving in panama hats and blazers as in Union Jack shorts".

Singapore bids to be jewel of the Far East

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT

SINGAPORE is bidding to become the tourism "hub" of the world's fastest growing region — the Far East. The booming island state plans to exploit its reputation for cleanliness and strict laws to combat crime to attract millions of additional visitors from Britain and mainland Europe.

Law enforcement is strict with smoking banned in all public places, and hefty fines for anyone who dares to light up or drop a cigarette end in the street. Duty-free imports are banned, chewing gum is illegal, littering is regarded as a serious crime and the death penalty is mandatory for drug pushing.

"The fact that we are clean and safe is a real attraction to many visitors who feel that they can walk around our streets in complete safety even at 3 o'clock in the morning," said Tan Chin Nam, chief executive of the Singapore Tourist Promotion Board.

During this week's World Travel Market he and 80 other staff were on hand to press the claim of Singapore to become the main entry point to the Far East. "We are small enough to satisfy visitors for a few days as a stopover, and yet we sit at the hub of an entire network of countries and cultures," said Mr Tan.

He has launched Tourism Unlimited, which is designed to expand Singapore's tourist expertise to the region as a whole.

Already there are indications that the country could achieve its aim. In the past five years, for example, the number of cruiseliner passengers travelling from Singapore has gone up from 50,000 to more than 700,000. A £20 million cruise centre has been built to attract ships looking for destinations beyond the traditional routes around the Caribbean and the Mediterranean.

Now shipping companies are being offered special deals to base ships at Singapore, and tour operators are offering holidaymakers three nights in Singapore followed by cruises taking in Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand, Bali, Brunei and Indonesia. Liners now include stops at Malacca, Penang, Krakatoa, Hong Kong, Ho Chi Minh City and Bangkok as well as Singapore.

Since 1986 Singapore has spent a total of almost £500 million on improving its infrastructure and now attracts almost seven million visitors a year — 302,000 of them from Britain. At least 7,000 new hotel rooms will have been opened by the end of the century and Singaporean businessmen and entrepreneurs are being encouraged to invest in neighbouring regions, and to link tourism developments.

The country, which consists of one main island and at least 50 smaller ones, has a population of almost three million, 78 per cent of whom are of Chinese origin.

It has developed rapidly since it became within non-stop range of Europe with the new generation of Boeing 747-400 long-range jets.

Singapore Airlines this week announced that it was buying another 77 Boeing jets, costing around £8 billion, to use on the rapidly expanding Asian routes. It has placed firm orders for 34 Boeing 777-200 models as well as 43 options. Six of the firm orders and ten options will go to the airline's leasing subsidiary for use by other companies.

Singapore Airlines will take delivery of the new planes between 1997 and 2004. One of the world's most profitable carriers, it expects to finance the purchase mostly from its general cashflow.

Goans fight beach shack ban

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT

ATTEMPTS by the Goan government to control the number of popular beach shacks which have sprung up along the 105 kilometres of seashore in the Indian state have infuriated local traders.

Hundreds of the shack owners, who sell drinks and snacks to the growing number of tourists, have now formed the All Goa Shack Owners Association which is urging tourists to boycott the destination until the government changes its mind.

They claim that the clampdown limiting the number of shacks which can be erected has been forced through by big hotels which can charge at least three times as much for a beer and which, they claim, cannot serve the hot fresh food as cheaply or as temptingly as the shack owners.

Tricia Barnett, co-ordinator of Tourism Concern, said yesterday: "Local people are losing their livelihoods and tourists will no longer be able to enjoy the experience of eating in a small Goan beach-side shack. We are sure many British holidaymakers would not like to think that tourism is being developed by removing the very places that tourists love to see, and destroying the livelihoods of local people."

But Goa's director of tourism, Ulhas Kamat, said at the World Travel Market in London yesterday that the clampdown had been introduced to "prevent the death of the goose which lays the golden eggs".

"We have miles of golden, unspoilt beaches and last year there was a sudden explosion of these shacks. On one seven-mile stretch alone there were more than 150 such shacks and it was becoming impossible for tourists to enjoy the very thing they had come so far to see.

"There is nothing to stop the locals from cooking in their homes near the beach then bringing the food to the shack if they wish. But we don't want the beaches spoilt by the rubbish they might bring in. We have already issued over 100 licences but we want to ensure that there is plenty of room between each shack and that they do not interfere with the visitors' enjoyment in any way."

More than 150,000 British tourists visited Goa last year and this is expected to rise by at least 20 per cent in the next 12 months. Now the state wants to open its own information centre in London and is encouraging locals to open their homes to paying guests to meet the soaring demand.

Twelve tour operators now offer holidays in Goa at prices starting at less than £300 for seven nights.

Holidays on the wild side

BY WILLY NEWLANDS

WILDLIFE is flavour of the year at the 1995 World Travel Market. Everywhere from China to Chile, state tourism departments have decided to promote their wild attractions — an aspect of travel which particularly appeals to countries short of beach resorts and shopping malls.

As one tour operator said: "It is silly to pretend that our bazaars can compete with Bond Street, but our tigers are thrilling. All we had to do was build a lodge and hire some elephants and we were in business."

P. K. Singh, assistant director of Uttar Pradesh tourism, told me that his region of India is now offering breathtaking, adventurous trekking routes into tiger country. Several take Himalayan trails followed by Jim Corbett 70 years' ago in pursuit of killer tigers, immortalised in his bestseller, *The Maneaters of Kumaon*.

Villages which were unvisited by outsiders until 30 years ago, many of them terrorised by tigers which in some cases killed more than 300 people, now see the big cats and other wildlife as an important draw for wealthy tourists.

One starting point for treks is Rudraprayag, whose maneating leopard killed 125 people in eight years. Now the leopards are a highlight of the tourist trail.



Tigers have exotic appeal that rivals beaches or bazaars

Sumatra, promoting itself as "The New Frontier", puts a tiger on the cover of its latest brochure, emphasising the variety of wildlife in the vast, dense rainforest only a short hop from modern Singapore.

And China, until recently unwilling to let travellers stray off the beaten track, is a convert to wildlife tourism. Jason Wu, manager of the China International Forest Travel Service, said: "It is very important for us to show people what we are doing, for example, to save the giant panda. We have tours to the Wolong Reserve, near Chengdu, in western China, to visit the Hetaoping giant panda reproduction base."

Such wildlife tours are now being included with Peking's Temple of Heaven and the Great Wall as part of mainstream itineraries in China.

While Sonam Tobgay, senior tourism officer of the Bhutan Tourism Corporation, suggested a trip to see the last black-necked cranes on their wintering grounds at Bomdeling, and Daniela Orellana, of Explora, described guanacos and condors in southern Chile's superb mountains, a new offer came from Samia Saleh Kebire, general manager of the Caravan agency in Addis Ababa — rafting on the River Omo or the Blue Nile.

A side trip to the Simyen Mountains, she explained, would allow me to view such rarities as gelada baboons, walia ibex and Simien fox.

All these tours are now brochured by tourist offices eager to cash in on the fastest growing area of travel. From whales to hummingbirds, every kind of wildlife is now being marketed with a hard-sell previously reserved for beach resorts.

Barbel Kirchner, of Namibia Tourism, suggested sea-lion watching on the Skeleton Coast, while Victoria Nash, of Landela Safaris, described a second Polish bird festival, a budget holiday for "those who are not quite intrepid enough to go it alone".

As Maciej Zimowski, manager of Bird Service Tours in Bialystok, says: "We take great pains to encourage more tourists to visit our unusual country."

Roger Frayne, a London travel consultant, said: "Some aspects of wildlife tourism are growing very fast, although from a small base. Low investment can give high returns — that appeals to many countries which want to join the travel boom of the Nineties."

Indonesia diverts tourists from Bali

BY TONY DAWE

INDONESIA has launched a new strategy to encourage visitors to look beyond the attractions of Bali to some of the country's larger islands.

Bali, the volcanic island of legendary beauty, attracts nearly a million visitors a year, mostly for beach holidays, and has played a major part in the nation's astonishing tourism boom. The number of visitors has risen more than threefold in ten years.

With the boom forecast to continue, and the number of British visitors expected to increase from 135,000 in 1993 to 400,000 by the year 2000, tourism chiefs want to promote the diverse charms of Indonesia's other destinations.

The "island strategy" will highlight specific activities — such as the wildlife, golf and diving — and has been developed with the help of Rob Langtry, an Australian advertising executive who has spent the past two years in Indonesia.

Launching the new strategy at the World Travel Market, Mr Langtry said: "We shall not be ignoring the well-known destinations like Bali but by heightening awareness of other areas, we hope to broaden the appeal of Indonesia and attract a wider range of tourists."

He highlighted Kalimantan, which spans two-thirds of the island everyone knows as Borneo, and is the only place in the world to find freshwater dolphins, in the Mahakam River, as well as an exceptional variety of monkeys

With 50,000 miles of coastline around its 17,000 islands and 15 per cent of the world's coral reefs, Indonesia will also promote diving holidays. Sheer underwater cliffs of coral off the coast of the elephant-shaped island of Sulawesi will attract experienced divers but beginners can head for gentle, shallow land-based diving on the Gili Islands, off Lombok.

For the really adventurous, the wilderness islands of Irian Jaya, and to a lesser extent, Sumatra, offer the chance to explore untouched rainforest, jungle and hot springs.

Pictures in last Thursday's Israel supplement came from *Israel: Splendours of the Holy Land* by Sarah Kochav, just published by Thames and Hudson (£29.95).



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World Cup winners usher in era of professionalism at Twickenham

England plotting southern discomfort

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

FRANCE struck a blow last week for northern hemisphere rugby by beating New Zealand; at Twickenham on Saturday, England have the opportunity to do the same when they face South Africa, the world champions, but in the knowledge that, unlike previous seasons, they have no fall-back position.

Jack Rowell, the team manager, admitted as much when England trained at the Bank of England ground at Roehampton yesterday. The spine of the team — Brian Moore, Dean Richards, Rob Andrew — has gone and, in Rowell's view, the personnel are not available to play in the traditional, sometimes laboured, English style. Casting a few barbs at the try-scoring limitations of the previous managerial regime, Rowell emphasised England's success last season. He seeks now to take the best from a disappointing World Cup campaign — the pool match with Western Samoa and the second half of the semi-final against New Zealand — and put it into practice against the most unforgiving of opponents.

"It's a big step to take from every-week club rugby to international rugby, particularly when the team hasn't played for five months," he said, "but remember the French didn't play at their best in the World Cup yet last week in Toulouse they pulled off a famous victory.

"If we are positive, in defence and attack, if we can release the reborn Jeremy Guscott and Will Carling — who is playing superb rugby — into the midfield with the ball and with space, we will see a lot of movement. Change never happens as fast as you want it to."

Yet, away from the field, changes come in fast; too fast for some. This will be England's first professional international, though the players have yet to sign contracts with the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and are therefore scarcely out of their amateur nappies. In that respect, they are well behind their opponents, the South African Rugby Football Union having agreed contracts worth up to £140,000 with their players.

England's players had hoped to settle contractual issues by this weekend, but instead have sought independent legal advice on the three main areas from which they hope to make money: retainers, match fees and commercial appearances, of which the latter is a minefield. The 21 players involved on Saturday have been offered contracts, for one year only, although the intention is to broaden that to a squad of some 50 players, including England A representatives.

Contracts will allow players to earn money elsewhere — for example, by writing newspaper columns, although there has been a strong view that such activity should be limited. Instead, the RFU will now rely on a catch-all regulation applicable to players bringing the game into disrepute.

The RFU is aware that players are testing the water this season. Several are believed to have signed letters of intent for Ross Turnbull, the Australian associated with the Rugby World Championship project that collapsed in the summer. Additionally, the stance adopted by first division clubs suggests that they would encourage their players to avoid signing long-term agreements with the union, though at this stage only the RFU is in a position to make concrete offers.

It is a far from easy scene for a young player such as Mark Regan to enter. The Bristol hooker, winning his first cap, takes the place of Moore, for so long the players' main advocate. Should Regan follow advice offered by the union or his senior colleagues, established members of the squad with their own commercial interests who can afford, literally, to delay contractual agreements?

For the moment, such thoughts may be the furthest from Regan's mind. His international debut comes against a team categorised by Rowell as firm favourites, unbeaten and riding the crest of a wave. "I don't regard South Africa as lucky world champions and, if they win, this will be the icing on the cake," Rowell said.

GILL ALLEN



Carling, left, the England captain, and Regan, the Bristol hooker preparing to win his first cap, train at Roehampton yesterday

Cardiff's plans suffer with loss of Davies

ANY plans that Cardiff may have had for using Jonathan Davies, their new acquisition from rugby league, in Europe this month have been put on hold (David Hands writes). Davies, 33, suffered a strained hernia against Cambridge University on Friday and he requires a minor operation.

He is likely to be out of rugby union action for the best part of a month, which covers the period when Cardiff play Bègles-Bordeaux (November 21) and Ulster (November 28) in the Heineken Cup. Davies has sustained the injury before but will welcome the chance to settle into a new home without the constant attention his return to Wales has received so far.

"The welcome has been overwhelming, but I'm sick of seeing my name in the press," he said yesterday. "This could be a blessing in disguise. It will take me out of the limelight. Maybe when I'm fit again I'll be able to find my way back in less of a glare."

It will be a blow to those who would have him back in the national team in the flickering of an eye. He has already accepted a post as a development officer for the Welsh Rugby Union, which is anxious to cash in on his fame, while Cardiff hope to recoup their outlay on bringing him back from Warrington in their home league matches.

Wales's first international commitment of the new year is against Italy in Cardiff on January 16, but they hope to have resolved the coaching post within a fortnight. Kevin Bowring, appointed caretaker coach for the game last week with Fiji, remains the frontrunner for the position.

SPORT IN BRIEF

India's fielders help Crowe to century

MARTIN CROWE hit an unbeaten 107, his highest score in one-day cricket internationals, to lead New Zealand to an eight-wicket victory over India in Jamshedpur yesterday. New Zealand reached their target of 237 with three of their 50 overs to spare, Crowe making the Indians pay dearly for three dropped catches as he shared an unbroken 171-run partnership with Stephen Fleming, who scored 78.

Manoj Prabhakar, who was India's top scorer with 83 after they had been asked to bat, struck an early blow with the ball when he had Nathan Astle leg-before for seven, but Mark Greatbatch scored 31 runs from 42 balls before he was second out at 66, leaving the way clear for the third-wicket pair to decide the game. Crowe was missed when 29, 39 and 50, on the last occasion by Utpal Chaterjee, the off spinner, who fumbled a caught-and-bowled opportunity. Fleming, who faced 107 balls, did not offer a chance.

Pickering goes alone

SWIMMING: Of Great Britain's three world champions, Karen Pickering will be the only one to defend a short-course title at Rio de Janeiro in a fortnight's time (Craig Lord writes). Nick Gillingham has opted instead for a world record attempt and the promise of money, while Mark Foster is emersed in changing his sprint freestyle technique, a process incompatible with rapid racing.

Pickering was the revelation of the inaugural world short-course championships in Palma de Mallorca two years ago, storming to a surprise victory in the 200 metres freestyle in a time that remains the second fastest in history, 1min 56.25sec. Rio, with its promise of a carnival atmosphere, will suit Pickering, who craves the cheering crowd.

Davies goes for treble

GOLF: Laura Davies, of Great Britain, will be aiming for her third Alpine Australian Masters win in succession when the event begins at Royal Pines on the Gold Coast today. Davies finished a record 20-under-par in winning Australia's biggest women's tournament last year over the par-73, 6,152-yard resort course. Her rivals will include two Swedes, several top Americans and a group of young Australians that includes Karrie Webb, the British open champion. Webb heads the home challenge, along with Jane Crafter, who scored the host nation's only win in the event, in 1992.

Thomson leads revival

BOWLS: England, trailing Wales, the leaders, by nine points overnight, closed the gap to four points in the inaugural European indoor team championship in Jersey yesterday. Andy Thomson, the world indoor champion, recovered to beat Stephen Rees 1-7, 7-3, 7-5, 7-1 in the opening men's singles, while the England rink skipped by Tony Allcock defeated Robert Weal's side 18-14 in the fours. Scotland moved into third place, five points behind England, after Graham Robertson scored a straight-sets win over Jon Queripel, of Guernsey, while Scotland also won 27-16 in the fours.

Brewster on course

YACHTING: Samantha Brewster, the solo yachtswoman attempting to break Mike Golding's non-stop east to west round-the-world record, has opened up a 375-mile advantage during the first 16 days. Brewster, 28, is 420 miles southwest of the Cape Verde Islands. Her 67-foot yacht, Heath Insured, has registered a succession of 200-mile runs after setting a best 24-hour run of 236 miles between November 11 and 12. "Everything is going very well," she reported yesterday.

Eton through to final

RACKETS: Eton I, the favourites, featuring Willie Boone and Mark Hue Williams, reached the final of the Noel Bruce public schools old boys doubles championship at the Queen's Club with a dynamic victory over John Spurling and Johnny Longley, the No 5 seeds, of Tonbridge. The Etonians took the title last year. The other finalists are the Radley partnership of James Male, the world champion, and Julian Snow, the world amateur real tennis champion.



Sheehan on Bridge

By Robert Sheehan
Bridge Correspondent

It is all very well knowing percentage plays in individual suits but they have to be put in the context of the whole hand. The refresher today, played in a £1 partnership, is a good example.

Dealer South — Love all — Rubber bridge

	♠Q 10 5 2 ♥A 8 6 ♦Q J 10 9 2 ♣5	
♠— ♥Q J 10 5 2 ♦8 7 6 5 4 ♣A 4 3	N W E S	♠K J 8 4 ♥K 7 4 3 ♦3 ♣Q 10 7 6
	♠A 9 7 6 3 ♥9 ♦A K ♣K J 9 8 2	

S	W	N	E
1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All pass		

Contract: Four Spades by South — Lead: Queen of Hearts

Declarer won the heart lead in dummy and played a spade to the ace. On receiving the bad news, she then played on diamonds, but went one off when East ruffed — the defence took three trump tricks and the ace of clubs.

There was then a lively debate between declarer and dummy as to what was the correct way to play the trump suit. Dummy said that it was right to lead the queen, declarer said that ace and another was better. The latter is somewhat better if you can afford to lose only one trick, but it is not the point of this hand — once East follows on the spade, all declarer has to do is to cover his card. If West wins the trick, the trumps cannot break worse than 3-1 and so declarer is bound to make three tricks in spades in hand, five diamonds in dummy, the ace of hearts and a club ruff.

As the cards lie, West shows out on the first spade; declarer switches to diamonds, and all the defence makes is two trump tricks and a club trick.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

Keene on Chess

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Ivanchuk eliminated

Before the start of the Paris leg of the Intel speed chess grand prix, Vassily Ivanchuk, the Ukranian grandmaster, was the clear leader in the overall standings, and the favourite to win the bonus $50,000 (£32,000) prize for the highest points scorer over the four legs, in Moscow, New York, London and Paris. Ivanchuk began the tournament in Paris with the additional impetus of the share of first prize ahead of Kasparov at the Horgen tournament in Switzerland.

However, his dream evaporated in the quarter-final when he was outplayed by his co-winner from Horgen, Vladimir Kramnik, 20, the Russian grandmaster.

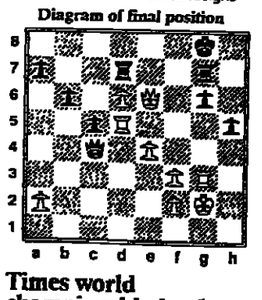
Kramnik adopted a sharp sacrificial line against Ivanchuk's Grunfeld Defence and powered through the centre with a devastating passed pawn to score a win in just 29 moves.

White: Vladimir Kramnik
Black: Vassily Ivanchuk
Intel Grand Prix
Paris, November 1995

Grunfeld Defence

1	Nf3	Nf6
2	c4	g6
3	Nc3	d5
4	cxd5	Nxd5
5	e4	Nxc3
6	bxc3	Bg7
7	d4	c5
8	Rb1	0-0
9	Be2	Nc6
10	d5	Bxc3+
11	Bd2	Bxd2+
12	Qxd2	Na5
13	h4	Bg4
14	h5	Bxf3
15	gxf3	e5
16	hxg6	hxg6
17	d6	b6
18	Qd5+	Kg7
19	Qxe5+	Qf6
20	Qh2	h5
21	Rd1	Nc4
22	Bxc4	Qc3+
23	Kf1	Qxc4+
24	Kg2	Rad8
25	Qe5+	Kg8
26	Rd5	Rf7
27	Rh3	Rdd7
28	Rg3	Rg7
29	Qe6+	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



Times world championship book

All games of the world title match are now available with commentary by Raymond Keene in a *Times* book, *World Chess Championship: Kasparov v Anand* (Batsford £9.99). Credit card orders on 01376 327901 (quote 5/655).

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

Word-Watching

By Philip Howard

BARDPARTS
CLEON
a. A sycophantic parasite
b. A feeble governor
c. A stern philosopher

SEMPRONIUS
a. A false friend
b. An Etruscan general
c. A twin brother

BAPTISTA
a. A shrewish wife
b. A silly father
c. A foolish virgin

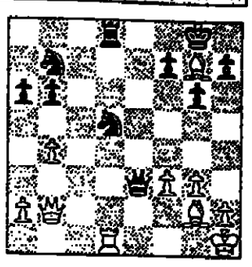
GOBBO
a. A murderer
b. A pedantic schoolmaster
c. A clownish servant

Answers on page 44

Winning Move

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Vilela — Spiridonov, Varna, 1977. White's back row is slightly vulnerable. If Black managed to . . . Qe1+ (prevented at present by the white rook on d1), it would force mate. How did Black cleverly use this possibility to force a quick win?



Solution on page 44

THE TIMES THURSDAY

Mather resorts to strike action in dispute

Oxford go stage in d

University 31
Bentley's XV 41

By Peter Bills

هكذا من الاصل

Mather resorts to strike action in dispute

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

BARRIE-JON MATHER, the England rugby league player, has asked solicitors to try to free him from his contract with Wigan which runs until 1997. He has written to the club insisting that he intends to stay away.

Mather, 22, a centre or second-row forward, had a successful summer stint with Perth Western Reds and is seeking a permanent move to the Australian club. He has not trained at Central Park this week and missed the Stones Championship game at Castleford last night.

"I am very disappointed with his attitude," Graeme West, the Wigan coach, said. "B-J is staying away and we have got the letter from his solicitor saying so."

Tom Rathbone, a Wigan director, said: "I would hope we could get around the table and hold talks with the player to sort this out."

Mather, 6ft 7in, a former England rugby union schoolboy international, signed for Wigan from Arnold School in Blackpool. He requested a move last year and was briefly put on the transfer list at £150,000 before making his peace with the club.

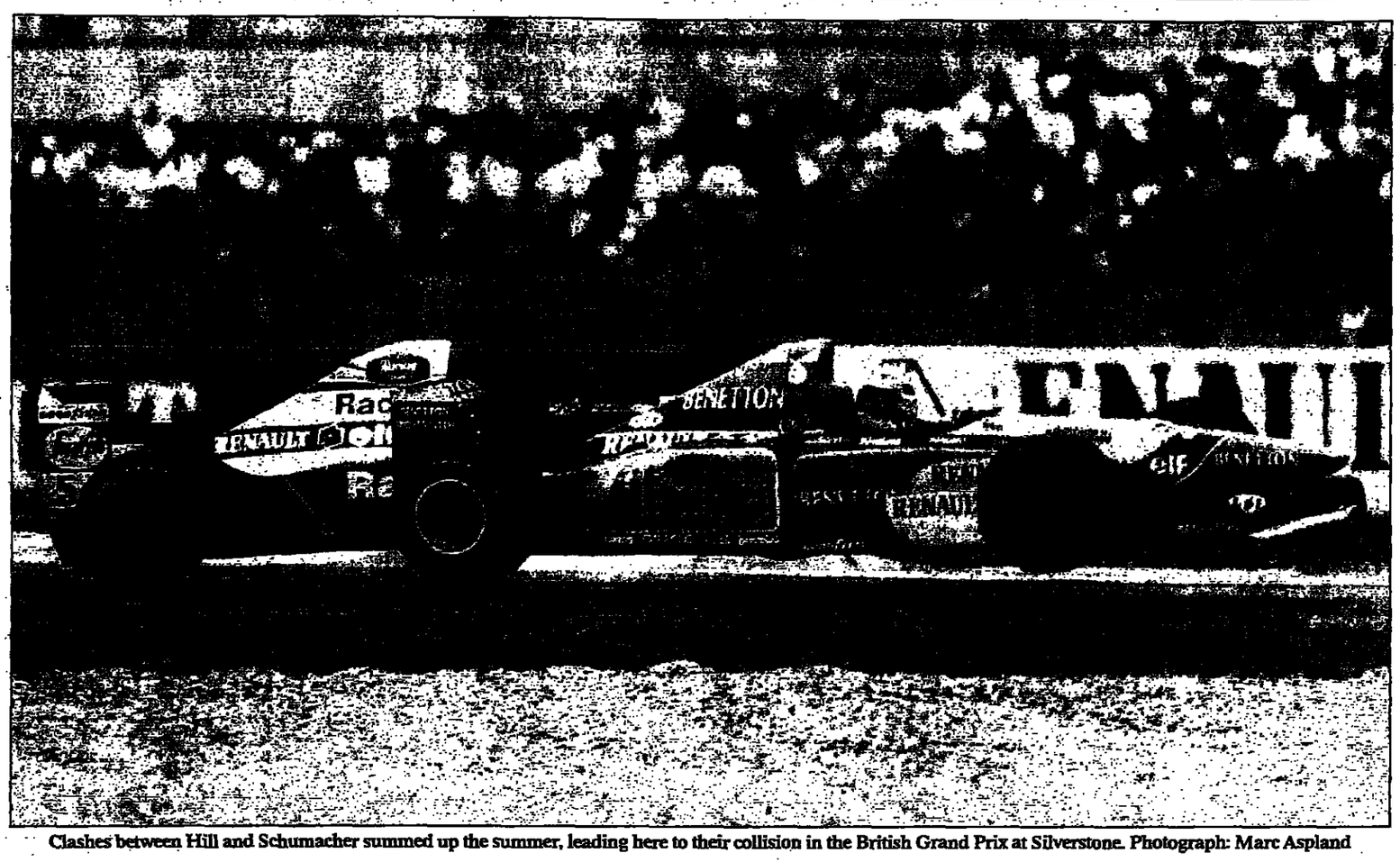
Meanwhile, Wigan were last night foiled in a late bid worth an estimated £650,000 in money and players for Paul Newlove, the England and Great Britain centre. St Helens are maintaining their interest in the player. Chris Caisley, the Bradford Bulls chairman, said: "We felt that we could possibly have come to terms with one particular club. The player indicated he did not wish to go there."

Bradford did complete one exchange deal yesterday. This took Deryck Fox back to Featherstone Rovers after three years at Odsal, along with Roy Powell, another former Great Britain international, in exchange for Matt Calland, a centre, who will face the league's disciplinary committee tonight after being sent off in Featherstone's Regal Trophy defeat at Huddersfield.

Should he escape a ban, Calland would be available for Bradford's game tomorrow with St Helens, who are worried about a knee injury sustained by Scott Gibbs playing for Wales in the World Cup. Steve Prescott and Andrew Haigh, two of the best St Helens youngsters, have signed new contracts until 1998.

The third-round Regal Trophy tie between London Broncos and Halifax, at the Stoop Memorial Ground, home of Harlequins rugby union club, has been chosen as the live BBC television game on November 25.

Hill and Schumacher look set to renew their explosive rivalry in 1996



Clashes between Hill and Schumacher summed up the summer, leading here to their collision in the British Grand Prix at Silverstone. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Feud that fuelled Formula One season



Oliver Holt reviews some of the highlights and low points of a year in grand prix racing

THE news that Mika Hakkinen had emerged from his coma last Saturday morning, after his jolting crash the day before, saved the Formula One season just past from being tainted by tragedy as its predecessor had been. Next, his first words seemed to encapsulate the mood that had dominated the preceding 16 races. "It was not my fault," he said.

Damon Hill and Michael Schumacher had been saying much the same thing for the large part of a year that opened with the promise of a first world title to compensate the Englishman for the one that he so narrowly missed out on in 1994, but quickly degenerated into a bitter feud between them that was fed by a series of controversies. Crash after crash, argument after argument, each pointed the finger at the other.

Hill was never quite on equal terms, striving like a drowning man for a glimpse of the surface but falling back to the depths at the point where salvation beckoned. The neutrals were all willing the Englishman on, desperate for someone to challenge Schumacher's hegemony. Hill was their chosen one and, when he failed in the midst of the maelstrom, many of them turned on their erstwhile hero in disillusion.

That was the true fascination of the season, the battle between a dignified, decent man whose vulnerability is there for all to see alongside his brilliance and a rival who seemed almost invincible, mentally hard, unyielding and relentless. Ultimately, they conformed to type and Schumacher established the vital psychological advantage as Hill buckled. Even Frank Williams, Hill's team owner, was rumoured to have called him "a prat" after a tangle with Schumacher in the British Grand Prix.

"There were times this year when the stick I got for the things I was doing gave me reservations about everything," Hill said this week. "It is just a general sense that everyone is on your back and that can make it difficult. You need people who are behind you and standing up for you. If I had had a few breaks in the middle of the season, things could have been a bit different."



Hill: dignified

Hill, though, never got the breaks and Schumacher won three of the last four races to equal Nigel Mansell's record of nine grand prix wins in one season, helping Benetton to claim the constructors' championship for the first time. Both he and the team washed away the doubts and suspicions that had tainted his first championship win the previous year. It was a happy way for Schumacher to bid farewell and take up the new challenge with Ferrari.

Their wins were anointed by a deluge of water hurled from buckets by a charging Schumacher at the team's celebration party in the Hilton Hotel in Adelaide on Sunday night. Their year of being champions was heralded by the first public playing of the new Beatles single, *Free as a Bird*, as the party headed towards dawn.

Hill and Schumacher danced with George Harrison as it played and forgot their feud for a while. They talked and laughed and danced, but the frostiness is still there and probably always will be. Even so, their rivalry this season produced some of the most exciting duels that the sport has seen in recent times and ensured that the year would not be hidden in the shadow of 1994.

The two protagonists engaged each other in a phoney war in the first half of the season, a period during which Hill coined the most memorable phrase of their exchanges by labelling Schumacher "a clone". Then they collided at Silverstone during the British Grand Prix, banged wheels during a thrilling Belgian Grand Prix in August and then collided in the Italian Grand Prix at Monza a fortnight later.

At times, it seemed that they were dangerously close to the edge, that their cars were drawn together as if by magnets and that they might kill each other on the track. They were both warned about their conduct, both given suspended race bans for their driving in different races, but, in the end, they stepped back from the brink and let the racing take over.

They finished first and second in the championship although David Coulthard, Hill's team-mate, threatened in the dying stages of the season. The young Scot won his first race in Portugal in September and showed with his qualifying performances in the latter half of the year that he is one of the brightest talents in Formula One.

Behind him was Johnny Herbert, who struggled in Schumacher's wake, but still won at Silverstone and Monza, and Jean Alesi, who won his first race at the Canadian Grand Prix in his last season with Ferrari before joining Benetton as half of the replacement for the world champion.



Schumacher: unyielding

They all deserve credit for producing a season that has seen television viewing figures rocketing and grand prix crowds swelling. Bernie Ecclestone, the sport's impresario, and Max Mosley, the president of the International Motor Sport Federation, should be applauded, too — Ecclestone, as the refuelling rules that he introduced were vindicated by the fine races on view; Mosley, for being the driving force in the continuing push for increased driver safety.

Next season, though, will still be about the men fighting for the championship and the smart money is still on Schumacher and Hill to be the main challengers despite the engine reliability problems that the German may face at Ferrari. Hill is judged to be the narrow favourite. "Maybe this is the turnaround," the Englishman said after he won the Australian Grand Prix on Sunday. "Maybe this is the start of me coming out of a bad patch. Hopefully, 1996 will be a good patch."

Champion aims to rise again in the Phoenix

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN MIYAZAKI, JAPAN

THE Dunlop Phoenix golf tournament, one of Japan's richest, that starts in Miyazaki, a seaside resort on the southern island of Kyushu, today, prides itself on being an international event. Its prize-money of 200 million yen, $2 million dollars or £1.3 million reflects that — and so does its list of previous champions.

In 1977, Severiano Ballesteros, his swash and his back still many years from buckling under the strain, launched himself as a global superstar and now he has hallowed status — and his own clothing line — in Japan.

Three years earlier, Johnny Miller, the tall blond from California, with US Open and Open championship titles to his credit, won the inaugural event and ensured that the reputation of the Phoenix would rise and rise.

A host of Americans, some good, some, like Tom Watson, rather better than that, have won since and, only two years ago, another mighty career was launched when Ernie Els, the diffident South African, outblasted Jumbo Ozaki, the local idol, to indicate that he was, indeed, something out of the ordinary.

Els is here again, as are Watson and Ozaki, who won the title for the first time last year, bringing to an end eight consecutive years of foreign domination. Ballesteros, however, is missing, out of action. So are other luminaries — José María Olazábal, Ian Woosnam and Colin Montgomerie, the European No 1.

There are still seven winners of major championships here — Els, Watson, Larry Mize, Craig Stadler, Larry Nelson, Scott Simpson and Jeff Sluman — and the European contingent is strong. It features Philip Walton — despite a bad neck — and Costantino Rocca, the two Ryder Cup heroes, along with Miguel Angel Jiménez and Barry Lane.

Lane, 35, was still trying to blot out the memory of his first shank as a professional, that came at the 72nd hole in the Visa Taiheiyo Masters last week. He who wound up with a triple-bogey eight and had the good grace to laugh. "It was either that or cry," he said.

He still earned more than a million yen to weep over all the way to the bank.

☐ Sandy Lyle, who has played most of the time in Europe since 1989, will rejoin the US PGA Tour next year. He will return as an exempt member until 1998 on the basis of his ten-year exemption for winning the 1988 Masters.

Oxford go centre stage in defeat

Oxford University	31
Major Stanley's XV	41

BY PETER BILLS

IN A rapidly-changing world, the standing of this traditional mid-term fixture has been sadly devalued in recent years. Yet, with sunlight illuminating the magnificent colours across Iffley Road on a golden autumn afternoon yesterday, and Oxford showing a spirit that few imagined possible from a 29-0 deficit, taking simple pleasure from a good game was once more foremost in supporters' minds.

Oxford, starting disastrously with the side likely to meet Cambridge at Twickenham next month, demonstrated sufficient quality and inspiration behind the scrum to suggest that they may yet prove worthy opponents for the more favoured Light Blues.

The key to the University match, on this evidence, will be whether Oxford can win sufficient ball for some speedy threequarters. Simply on aesthetic grounds, one hopes that they can, for, in De Bruyn and Riondet, they have as delightful and creative a pair of centres as either university has fielded for many years.

De Bruyn, a class act from Cape Town, scored Oxford's first try with a classical outside break and then step inside the full back. Both centres fashioned a try for Rush after an hour before Riondet, the Frenchman, was twice involved in the move that led to Sackree's score.

Stanley's, mindful of their 80-58 humiliation last year, always had just that little extra in hand. They were often too powerful for the students up front. By the time that De Bruyn scored Oxford's first points, five minutes before half-time, Stanley's had rained down five tries through Van Der Merwe and Lumsden (two apiece) and Motoki. Rees converted two for a 29-7 interval advantage.

Oxford's attacking plan then began to show. Du Preez, Rush, McCarthy and Sacree scored tries and Humphreys two further conversions pulled Oxford up to 31-36.

The impetus remained with the Dark Blues and Rush and Britton were each stopped a yard short, before Tucker completed a break for Stanley's for the twelfth and final try of the match.

SCORERS: Oxford University: Tries: De Bruyn, Du Preez, Rush, McCarthy, Sacree. Conversions: Humphreys (3). Stanley's XV: Tries: Lumsden (2), Van Der Merwe (2) Motoki, Rees, Tucker. Conversions: Rees (3).

OXFORD UNIVERSITY: S P Du Preez (Queens College, Queenstown, SA and Keble); S J Rush (Harrow and Mansfield), C A De Bruyn (Diocesan College, Cape Town and Keble), J M D Riondet (Lycée le Kanet, Paris and Mansfield), T G Howe (Bembridge Academy and Keble); D G Humphreys (Ballymena Academy and St Cross), M P Butler (King Edward VI, Lichfield and St Edmund Hall); C G N Norton (St Andrew's College, Grahamstown, SA and Keble), K F Svoboda (Centennial Sec, Canada and Templeton), D N Penney (Memorial Univ, Newfoundland and Wolfson), C A P McCarthy (St Mary's College, Dublin and Templeton), N J Basson (Diocesan College and St Cross), R S Yeabsley (Haberdashers' Aske's and Keble), M G P S Crosier (King's, Canterbury and Christ Church), M P A Reilly (St Gerard's, Bray and St Anne's); Crosier replaced by J S V Britton (Wellington College and New College, 41min); Du Preez replaced by J Sackree (Wisbech GS and St Edmund Hall, 65); J Botterell (Marlborough and Merton) temporary replacement for Norton (10-18).

MAJOR R V STANLEY'S XV: A Lumsden (Bath); D O'Leary (Harlequins), Y Motoki (Kobe Steel and Japan), F Pescher (Limoges), D Chapman (Esher); G Rees (Newport and Canada), S Bates (Wasps and England); D Morris (Neath), S Mitchell (Harlequins), K Yates (Bath), G Allison (Harlequins), G Llewellyn (Neath and Wales), D Sims (Gloucester), R Jenkins (Harlequins), W van der Merwe (University of Cape Town). Chapman replaced by I Tucker (Sydney University, 44); Yates replaced by S Brown (Harlequins and England Under-21, 40); Van der Merwe replaced by Yates (71).

Referee: A Spreadbury (Somerset).

Fowler's talents granted Sexton's seal of approval

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

ROBBIE FOWLER moved closer to the senior international squad as England bowed out of the European Under-21 championships despite beating Austria 2-1 at Middlesbrough's Riverside Stadium on Tuesday evening.

The Liverpool forward's disappointment could be assuaged by a place in Terry Venables's party for the European championship campaign next summer, despite the intense competition for places.

"If you put him in the side, he would not be out of place." Dave Sexton, the head coach of the under-21 team said. "Anyone with his kind of talent must have a chance.

"I saw him play against Manchester United when he got both of Liverpool's goals. His second was a brilliant finish. He is capable of that, yet is still a young man."

Fowler, sent off in the victory over Austria last year, had vowed to deliver a goal at Middlesbrough and did so with a simple tap-in from Neil Shipperley's cross. It was his third goal in eight appearances at this level.

Another effort which found the net — a sweetly-struck left-footed volley — was ruled out for offside. Fowler went on to demonstrate that there is more to his game than goalscoring — although the goal was his thirteenth of the season — with a superb flick to supply the pass for England's winning goal, from Shipperley.

"The lay-off for our second goal was tremendous," Sexton said. Fowler's opener had been quickly cancelled out by an excellent 30-yard drive from Harald Cerny.

Fowler formed an effective partnership with Shipperley, and there were also commendable displays from Robbie Elliott and Steve Watson, the Newcastle United pair, in a solid all-round team performance. England, though, ended their group six qualifying campaign one point behind Portugal, who progressed to the quarter-finals with a 3-1 defeat of Ireland.

It was the fourth time in succession that England had failed to reach the knockout stages of the competition.

When England's youngsters next gather, they could be under new stewardship, Sexton suggesting that, after 20 years in charge, apart from a three-year break in the early 1980s, he might now make way for Ray Wilkins, his assistant.

"Nothing has been said so far, and I am happy to do the job, especially at my age." Sexton, who is not under contract for what is a part-time position, said, "but if they want a younger man to come in, if they want Ray to take over, then I am quite happy to step down at any time."

☐ Lee Duxbury, 26, the midfield player, has rejoined Bradford City, the Endsleigh League second division club, less than 11 months after leaving them for Huddersfield Town.

Duxbury, who cost Bradford £135,000, is expected to play in the home match against Hull City on Saturday.

CRICKET

JAMSHEDPUR (first one-day international): New Zealand won toss: New Zealand beat India by eight wickets

INDIA

M Prabhakar c Astle b Larsen	83
S R Tendulkar c Greatbatch b Morrison	30
N S Sidhu c Nash b Larsen	12
*M Azharuddin b Cairns	32
V G Kambli b Nash	15
A D Jadeja c and b Thomson	0
†N R Mongia b Morrison	26
A Kumble b Nash	4
J Srinath not out	17
U Chatterjee run out	3
V Prasad b Cairns	1
Extras (lb 6, w 7)	13
Total (49.1 overs)	238

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-45, 2-94, 3-159, 4-177, 5-178, 6-194, 7-204, 8-222, 9-234.

BOWLING: Morrison 9-0-49-2; Nash 10-0-58-2; Cairns 9.1-1-33-2; Larsen 10-0-40-2; Astle 3-0-17-0; Thomson 8-1-35-1.

NEW ZEALAND

M J Greatbatch b Prasad	31
N J Astle lbw b Prabhakar	7
M D Crowe not out	107
S P Fleming not out	78
Extras (lb 9, w 3, nb 2)	14
Total (2 wkts, 47 overs)	237

S A Thomson, R G Twose, C L Cairns, *†L K Germon, G R Larsen, D J Nash and D K Morrison did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-18, 2-88.

BOWLING: Prabhakar 7-0-37-1; Srinath 8-1-30-0; Prasad 10-0-50-1; Kumble 10-0-60-0; Chatterjee 9-0-54-0; Tendulkar 3-0-17-0.

Man of the match: M D Crowe.

Umpires: O K Sathe and Giri Dhan.

BASKETBALL

PONTE SOR, Portugal: European championships: Semi-final pool B: Portugal 72 England 75 (Bucknall 17, Brown 16, Huggins 15).

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Atlanta 111 Charlotte 104; Seattle 115 Philadelphia 107; Orlando 94 Chicago 88; Milwaukee 98 San Antonio 84; Portland 105 New York 99; Los Angeles Clippers 116 Golden State 106; Los Angeles Lakers 108 Sacramento 100.

BOWLS

JERSEY: European indoor team championships: Women: Pairs: Ireland 20 Wales 15; England 28 Scotland 14; Guernsey 16 bt Jersey 12. Triples: Ireland 13 Guernsey 11; Jersey 17 England 13; Wales 11 Scotland 11. Positions (at end of pairs and triples): 1, Wales 33pts (+132 shots); 2, England 25 (+88); 3 Ireland, 20 (+19); 4, Scotland 19 (-10); 5, Guernsey 12 (-144); 6, Jersey 11 (-85).

FOOTBALL

European championship

Qualifying group seven

ALBANIA (1) 1 WALES (1) 1
Kushta 4 (pen) Pembridge 43
6,000

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP: Qualifying tournament: Group one: France 3 Israel 0 (in Rouen); France qualify for quarter-finals); Azerbaijan 0 Poland 0 (Trabzon); Romania 2 Slovakia 0 (Kosice). Group two: Cyprus 1 Belgium 1 (Limassol). Group four: Italy 0 Lithuania 0 (Placois: Italy qualify for quarter-finals).

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Australia 3 New Zealand 0 (in Newcastle).

SPRINGHEATH PRINT CAPITAL LEAGUE: Barnet 3 West Ham Utd 2; Cambridge Utd 0 Fulham 0; Gillingham 4 Peterborough 1; Northampton 2 Leyton Orient 2; Wimbledon 1 Norwich 1; Swansea 0 Bournemouth 2.

FA PREMIER LEAGUE: Under-16 Trophy: Lincolnshire 2, Nottinghamshire 3. Under-19 Trophy: Northants 3 Lincolnshire 3.

Tuesday's late results

EUROPEAN U-21 CHAMPIONSHIP: Group one: Azerbaijan 1 Poland 2; Slovakia 3 Romania 1. Group two: Denmark 4 Armenia 0. Group three: Sweden 6 Turkey 1. Group four: Slovenia 4 Croatia 2. Group five: Cz Rep 4 Luxembourg 0; Holland 2 Norway 1. Group six: England 2 Austria 1; Portugal 3 Ireland 1. Group seven: Germany 7 Bulgaria 0. Group eight: Scotland 1 San Marino 0.

AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD: Northern section: Bury 0 Wigan 0.

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Kettering 1 Welling 3.

MITRE CHALLENGE: Football League U-21 1 Italian Football League 1.

REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES: Maidenhead United 0 ICIS FL XI 0; UniBond League 2 FA XI 0.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: First division: Congleton 1 Eastwood Town 1.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Atherstone 1 Grantham 2; Baldock 2 Chelmsford 1; Burton 5 Stafford 1; Cambridge City 2 Gravesend and Northfl 1; Gloucester 0 Halesowen 2; Weston 4 Chelmsford 3; Merthyr 3 Dorchester 1. Postponed: Hastings v Sudbury, Midland division: Bedworth 3 Sutton Coldfield 2; Bridgnorth 1 Bilston 0; Hinckley Town 4 Kings Lynn 3; Moor Green 3 Stourbridge 0. Southern division: Ashford 2 Margate 0; Tonbridge Angels 1 Fleet 2; Walsall Wood 3 Poole 1; Witney 0 Havant 0. Postponed: Weymouth v Bashley. Dr Martens cup: First round: Second leg: Ebb and Belvedere 0 Fisher 93 2.

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Hitchin 2 Chertsey 0. First division: Billericay 1 Whyteleafe 1. Second division: Bracknell 0 Collier Row 3; Canvey Island 3 Wivenhoe 3.

[redacted]

FOOTBALL

SCHOOLS MATCHES: English Schools Full Flex Trophy: Second round: Blackpool v Liverpool (at Stanley Park, 7.0). London Cup: Kent v Essex (at Margate, 7.30).

RUGBY UNION

Tour match

South of Scotland v Griqualand West (at Gala, 7.15) ...

OTHER SPORT

BOWLS: European team championships (Jersey).

Chalfont St Peter 1 Banstead 1; Metropolitan Police 1 Saffron Walden 1; Witham 0 Hungerford 2. Third division: Clapton 1 Hornchurch 2; East Thurrock 2 Rockwell Heath 1; Leighton 6 Camberley 0; Wealdstone 9 Southall 0; Windsor and Eton 5 Cove 3. Carlton cup: First round: Barton 3 Heybridge Swifts 2; Thame 4 Malden 1.

LEAGUE OF WALES: League cup: Group one, first round: Bangor City 0 Cemaes Bay 3.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Portsmouth 2 Queens Park Rangers 1. Second division: Plymouth 3 Torquay 1.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Derby 1 Sheffield Wed 1; Everton 2 Notts County 0; Liverpool 1 Bolton 0. Second division: Blackpool 2 Grimsby 3; Coventry 2 Burnley 3; Manchester City 1 Preston 2; Rotherham 2 Port Vale 3. Third division: Shrewsbury 2 Chester 2.

GOLF

ATALAYA PARK, COSTA DEL SOL: Johnnie Walker European team championships: Leaders after two rounds: 276: Spain (F Velasco 64, T Munoz 67). 281: Scotland (T Smith 68, C Gillies 69). 282: Holland (J Sexton 69, B Gee 73). 283: England (J Higgins 70, P Carman 71). Ireland (D Mooney 69, K O'Donnell 71). 286: Portugal (A Sobrinho 70, B Evans 77).

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Florida 5 Toronto 2; New Jersey 1 Hartford 0; Pittsburgh 4 Dallas 2; Tampa Bay 5 Boston 3; Washington 2 Philadelphia 2 (OT); St Louis 1 New York Rangers 1 (OT); Winnipeg 6 Chicago 5 (OT); Calgary 4 Edmonton 2; Detroit 6 Los Angeles 5; New York Islanders 5 San Jose 3.

BRITISH LEAGUE: First division: Solihull Barons 4 Blackburn Blackhawks 6.

RUGBY UNION

BUSA MIDLAND MERIT LEAGUE: Sheffield University 23 Loughborough 15.

CLUB MATCH: Oxford University 31 Major R V Stanley's XV 41.

CIS INSURANCE U-21 COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Midlands: Pool two: Warwickshire 12 North Midlands 18.

TOUR MATCHES: New Zealanders 55 French Selection 17; Scottish North and Midlands 43 Western Samoans 9; Connacht 27 Fijians 5.

RACKETS

QUEEN'S CLUB: Noel Bruce public schools old boys doubles championships: Semi-finals: Eton I (W Boone and M Hue-Williams) bt Tonbridge I (J Spurling and J Longley) 15-5, 18-16, 15-3, 15-2; Radley I (J Male and J Snow) bt Wellington I (T and W Sawyer-Cookson) 15-3, 15-4, 15-0, 16-17, 15-8.

HOCKEY

CAPE TOWN: Women's Olympic qualifying tournament: Argentina 3 Holland 2; Germany 1 China 0.

RUGBY LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION: Salford 58 Whitehaven 18

SQUASH

CAIRO: World team championships: Third qualifying round: Pool B: England 2 Pakistan 1 (S Perkin bt Zarak Jahan 9-7, 9-2, 9-3; D Harris bt M Z Gul 9-3, 9-0, 9-3; C Walker lost to Zubaira Jahan 9-2, 9-1, 2-9, 4-9, 1-9). Pool C: Canada 2 Ireland 1 (J Power lost to D Ryan 9-5, 9-0, 9-5; L Balding bt S Richardson 9-5, 9-3, 9-2; J Crombie bt E Ryan 9-5, 9-0, 9-5). Scotland 2 Austria 1 (A Taylor lost to D Sabitzer 1-9, 2-9, 9-7, 6-9; D Gordon bt C Wallishauser 9-5, 9-4, 9-1; A Thompson bt C Wind 5-9, 9-0, 9-5, 9-0). Pool D: Brazil 3 Japan 0; Greece 2 Portugal 1.

TENNIS

MAURITIUS: Men's ATP Challenger: First round: Singles (selected results): T Hanman (GB) bt G Soares (Fra) 7-6, 6-3; C Beecher (GB) bt P Pamplet (Fr) 6-3, 6-2; L Tiderman (It) bt A Retrescion (GB) 6-4, 6-3; N Godwin (SA) bt C Wilkinson (GB) 6-3, 6-4; M Petchey (GB) bt V Santapadre (It) 6-4, 6-1; P Baur (Ger) bt L Milligen (GB) 6-2, 6-2.

EDINBURGH: Women's Challenger: Singles: second round (selected results): S Smith (GB) bt A Gerss (Czech) 6-4, 6-2; S Gerke (Ger) bt K Cross (GB) 6-1, 6-3; M Maruska (Aut) bt J Ward (GB) 7-5, 6-0.

NEW YORK: WTA tour championships: First round (selected): B Schultz-McCarthy (Hol) bt M Maleeva (Bul) 6-2, 7-5; S Graf (Ger) bt A Coetzer (SA) 6-2, 6-2; M J Fernandez (US) bt C Rubin (US) 3-6, 6-2, 6-3.

POOLS DIVIDENDS

LITTLEWOODS: Treble chance: 24pts £12,109.20, 23 £194.00, 22 £14.30, 21 £4.90, 20 £1.15. Four draws £10.95, 10 homes £15.70. Five aways £17.85.

VERNONS: Treble chance: 24pts £6132.05, 23 £115.65, 22 £8.95, 21pts £3.15, 10 homes £15.90. Five aways £2.25.

ZETTERS: Treble chance: 24pts £2,172.70, 23 £23.50, 22 £2.05, 21 £0.90 (stakes to one-ninth of a penny). Easy six £23.00. Four draws £40.00. Eight homes £2.70. Four aways £180.00. Goals galore (pad on 177 goals) £4.15. Lucky numbers 25 31 1 15 19 28

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Captain's mission to entertain

The natural born thriller with a gambler's habit



David Miller catches up with an early starter determined to halt England's Test progress

Those who arrange breakfast-time interviews invariably are self-motivated organisers: that much more so when they want to see you even *before* breakfast. Hansie Cronje, you sense, while longing for the first cup of coffee of the day, is a natural leader and captain.

Better still, for cricket and for South Africa in particular, he possesses a vocational streak of adventurous spirit. Cricket should grab the public, he proclaimed. Fancy that. Can this dark, handsome 26-year-old batsman really be from the world of expedient, professional, sport?

He is, indeed, and with a vengeance. In the centenary Test against New Zealand, he gambled on a third-innings declaration, and won. If it comes down to the wire in a deciding fifth Test against England, in the series that begins at Verwoerdburg today, he promises to take the same positive course.

"Cricket needs spectators, and they need aggressive cricket," Cronje said. "You've got to go out and enjoy the game, that is what sport should be — not trying to smash every ball for four, have a laugh, and lose, but knowing at the end of the match you gave it everything you've got."

The risk against New Zealand at Auckland was small, he reflected, because he backed his bowlers to get them out. "If you don't, that's when they freeze," he said. "My instinct would say again 'go for it' against England, backing my team, letting the public see *I'm positive.*"

Cronje is the latest in a line of formidable South African rugby-cricketers. Captaincy came to him at an early age, as easily as timing the ball. Any ball.

He captained Free State Under-19 at rugby, might have preferred tennis, captained the provincial cricket team at 20 and his country at 24, when he was the youngest member of the team. "It comes naturally to me," he said, almost absent mindedly.

The environment from the start was right. His father was president of the Free State Cricket Union, was heavily involved in university sport, and gave his sons every encouragement without pressing them in any specific direction.

Like Will Carling, he hastened to give credit to his international colleagues for having accepted him so young, for supporting him; yet he feels that any successful captain must have an instinct for the job from early on. He set out to be democratic, to ensure that the others felt that they were always part of the decision-making process on the field, while recognising that all ultimately rested on his shoulders. "Maybe later I'll become more autocratic than democratic," he said meaningfully, giving that same steady stare as Mike Atherton.

South Africa is fortunate to have unearthed, on its return to the international fold, two young men as contained and resolute as Francois Pienaar, the captain of the rugby union side, and Cronje. Both come from Afrikaans-speaking backgrounds, yet are of the new age that spontaneously embraces all the strands of urgent social change.

"Politically, I never supported the [apartheid] system," he said. "We all realised it was wrong, that we had a responsibility. I've made good friends all along the way. Both Pienaar and I recognised that sport had a major role in unifying the people. That's the way I was brought up, the way I'll be the rest of my life."

Cronje welcomed the extra dimension suddenly offered to the Test team by the unfathomable complexities of Paul Adams, the little Coloured spinner from the Cape. "We need people like him, influential in his cultural sphere, a role model," he said.

He agreed that the South Africa pace bowlers ought to be a key factor in the series, but warned that their durability will be equally important: that spinners may become significant as the series progresses. The soundness of Atherton and Stewart as the England openers, enabling the middle-order men to get at the old ball, concerned him.

He was glad to have hit 158, his first century of the southern season, for Free State at the weekend (a contribution to an inter-provincial record fourth-innings total of 390), and was conscious of his suspect form against short-pitched pace. "I think I'm getting at it," he said modestly.

Did I say organised? Yesterday afternoon, never mind the Test match, Cronje was busy, unannounced, running a private clinic for a couple of dozen black youngsters. Here is more than a captain.

Typically, he regarded an increase in professionalism, more than any specific technique, as his colleagues' most significant advance since returning to the world stage. "Previously, we only played three-day games; people were happy to play provincial cricket and sit back," he said. "Kepler Wessels was a major influence in changing that, ensuring the guys were dedicated and fit." His, and their, professionalism is now on the line.

GRAHAM MORRIS



Cronje, the South Africa captain, tries a new type of batting helmet while preparing for the first Test

Australia eager to underline initial superiority

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN HOBART

AS FAR as Australia are concerned, the second Test against Pakistan cannot come too soon. Having outplayed them in Brisbane, where they achieved their most overwhelming victory against these opponents, by an innings and 126 runs, they are suitably primed for Hobart, and the hope here, where the game starts tomorrow, is that the match lasts longer than three days and a session.

Pakistan performed like a rabble in Brisbane and have had little time to regroup. Ijaz Ahmed, a late arrival for Saeed Anwar, comes into the middle order, replacing Salim Malik, whose hand injury is healing slowly.

The invalid will not feel any better for reading Shane Warne's comments that an Australian, similarly afflicted, would have batted regardless of pain. It might be better if Malik went home; nobody wants to see him here. The Pakistanis are embarrassed by his presence. The Australians, hard players but fair, affronted by his antics, just ignore him.

Warne is quite right. Australian skill is usually underpinned by an immense team spirit and, in the case of this team, that spirit is unquenchable. There can be little doubt that this is the best team in the world. The manner of its latest victory, accomplished as though brushing away a troublesome fly, confirmed that it has no equals.

It is a sobering thought that Dominic Cork alone, of the England side that starts the first Test in Pretoria, would get into the Australia team, and he would be a debatable pick ahead of Paul Reiffel, who played a significant part in the victory over West Indies earlier this year.

Warne's was not the only contribution in Brisbane. Ian Healy took his 250th Test dismissal behind the stumps, Glenn McGrath bowled beautifully — how England could do with a young fast bowler of his class — and, most significant, in terms of the result, Steve Waugh made a ninth Test hundred.

Waugh is making a habit of excelling on this stage and he will not be discouraged by bringing his talents to Hobart where his first-class record shows 1,256 runs at an average of 157. He made his first Sheffield Shield century in Tasmania, and an unbeaten 190 at the Bellerive Oval for New South Wales two winters ago gained his return to the Test side.

Sir Leonard Hutton, watching Waugh make his debut Test hundred at Headingley in 1989, was reminded of Ponsford and McCabe. Such praise seemed extravagant when he lost his way afterwards, but he has recovered his poise, so much so that he is now indispensable to the Australia middle order, and, for what it is worth, he is ranked No 1 in the world.

After 77 Tests, Waugh has moved his average to 48, six runs ahead of his twin, Mark. At 30, he is well placed to advance his cause further and he is growing to maturity in a side that blends the young admirably with the more senior. This is the team that every other in the world wants to be.

Pakistan seek help from England to change tainted image



Oslear: in demand

Pat Gibson reports from Multan as the Pakistanis try an unexpected approach

It was always unlikely that England A would get through their tour of Pakistan without someone mentioning Shakoor Rana or ball tampering, but when those grim reminders of recent bitter conflicts between the two countries finally surfaced yesterday, it was in a way that nobody could have envisaged.

Shakoor, the Pakistani umpire whose finger-wagging altercation with Mike Gatting, the England captain, brought the 1987-88 tour to a standstill, is out; Don Oslear, the English umpire who substantiated ball-tampering claims against the Pakistanis in 1992, is in.

Or so it seemed after Arif Ali Abbasi, the chief executive of the Pakistan Cricket Board, revealed that the country that was becoming the pariahs of international cricket, was not only looking to "outside influences" to improve their game but wanted England to show them the way.

Abbasi, a busy man, what with Australian bribery allegations against Salim Malik and the little matter of organising the next World Cup, still found time to contact the MCC through John Jameson, the assistant secretary (cricket), and tell him what was required.

"At the moment, we are pretty busy," he said, "but after the World Cup we want a distinguished retired umpire and a retired coach to come over. We want the visit to be long enough to hold general discussions and perhaps seminars with some of our umpires and coaches.

"I am a firm believer in inter-action. I have been involved in cricket for 15 years on and off and I don't believe that going into seclusion is the way ahead. I would even like to arrange for umpires from all over the world to come to this country for a big seminar. It can only lead to improvement when umpires talk together."

Abbasi confirmed that Oslear, who was the "third umpire" in the one-day international at Lord's in 1992 and went to the High Court to back Allan Lamb's allegations of ball tampering, was the first name on his list. Oslear is an expert on the laws and has lectured widely on the subject since his retirement from the first-class umpires list.

No coach has been mentioned yet, although Norman Gifford, the former England spinner who left Sussex during the summer, is one who might fit the bill.

Why turn to England, though? Why not Australia or South Africa? "I am not going to beat about the bush," Abbasi said. "I have always been more inclined towards England. We don't like some other countries as much."

What about the Gatting-Shakoor Rana affair? "1987 is a long time ago," he said. "We have always had more friends in England than anywhere else. As far as I'm concerned, Shakoor Rana will never see the inside of a Test match again. In that series, I think there were faults on both sides, but Shakoor Rana made it more antagonistic. I don't believe in being antagonistic."

So the goodwill that the A team has encountered everywhere on the first English tour since that infamous campaign seems perfectly genuine, although there is one cloud on the horizon.

Shakeel Khan, Shakoor's colleague, is to stand in the first five-day "Test" which starts here tomorrow; and, in English eyes at any rate, it was he who started the trouble on Gatting's tour with some questionable decisions, one of which led to Chris Broad refusing to leave the crease after being given out caught behind.

Yorkshire considering move

CHRIS HASSELL, the Yorkshire chief executive, confirmed yesterday that the club is thinking of moving to a new headquarters, to replace Headingley, and is awaiting the results of a feasibility study before making a decision.

Also under consideration is a scheme to buy the cricketing area of the Headingley ground from the present owners, the Leeds Cricket, Football and Athletic Company.

"It is a complicated issue, considering things like where the cricket ground ends and the rugby ground starts," Hassell said.

"The ground obviously needs a lot of money spending on it to bring it up to scratch and it is a matter of whether the money is best spent here or somewhere else.

"We want to make a balanced judgment because it will affect the next 100 years. If a move is the sensible thing to do, we should try to do it. The train is rolling slowly and it will be six to 12 months before we have got all the information we need."

Hassell acknowledged that a new stadium in the Wakefield area was a possibility. "The area around the M1 and M62 is marvellous from the point of view of communications," he said. "At Headingley, there are problems with parking and access."

Warwickshire, the county champions, have awarded Andy Moles, their opening batsman, a benefit in 1997. Moles, 34, has scored more than 11,500 first-class runs since joining the county from local league cricket in 1986. He missed much of last season because of injury.

Surrey have appointed Adam Hollioake, 24, the all-rounder, as vice-captain to Alec Stewart next season. It will be the first time that Surrey have had an official vice-captain since Stewart held the post under Ian Greig.

England benefit from absence of Jansher

FROM COLIN MCQUILLAN IN CAIRO

PAKISTAN, the defending champions, appeared to press the self-destruct button here yesterday when they opted to play an important match against England in pool B of the qualifying rounds of the WSF world team squash championship without Jansher Khan, their No 1.

Almost immediately, they had cause to regret leaving out the world champion when Chris Walker unexpectedly lost from two games up against Zubair Jahan in a third-string rubber lasting 64 minutes. Walker was cruising but failed to respond tactically when Zubair took him on in the front court in the third game and went on to win 2-9, 1-9, 9-2, 9-4, 9-1.

A victory from an on-song Jansher at that stage would have sealed the match and left England with the difficult proposition of playing Australia, the top seeds, in the semi-finals tomorrow after a quarter-final today against a Canadian side that yesterday beat Ireland 2-1 to secure a place in the leading eight.

Jansher, though, is not on song. "I have an ache in my bones," he said at the Al Shams Club here yesterday. "My blisters are bad. I just don't feel well. I have played too many matches."

Simon Parke and Del Harris efficiently compensated for Walker's lapse of concentration, beating Zarak Jahan and Mir Zaman Gul, respectively, in straight games, and Stuart Courtney, the England team manager, said that he was unsurprised by Pakistan's selection process. "They have played Jansher until he is creaking and they knew Simon might beat him and we could certainly beat them," Courtney said. "Of course, none of us expected Walker to lose his way quite so badly.

"They are gambling on a semi-final win over Australia to reach the final with Jansher a bit rested, but it is one hell of a gamble against a side still smarting from losing the title to Pakistan in Karachi two years ago."

Results, page 43

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 42

CLEON
(b) Governor of Tarsus in *Pericles*. He welcomes Pericles's help in the famine and later agrees to bring up his baby daughter Marina. When Dionyza, his wife, has Marina murdered, as he thinks, he weakly tries to remonstrate ("O lady! . . . O Leonine"), and even attacks her with senile rage ("Thou art like the harpy,/ Which, to betray, dost, with thine angel's face,/ Seize with thine eagle's talons . . . "). Too few lines to show much character: what there are make him appear feeble-minded.

SEMPRONIUS
(a) Of all Timon's false friends, he has the most ingenious way of avoiding lending him money. He pretends to be offended at being asked third instead of first. "Has Ventidius and Lucullus denied him,/ And does he send to me? . . ./ Must I be his last refuge? . . ./Who hates mine honour shall not know my coin."

BAPTISTA
(b) The father of Katharina and Bianca in the *Shrew*, the standard silly old fool of farce.

GOBBO
(c) Launcelot Gobbo, Shylock's clownish servant in *Merchant of Venice*, and a lugubrious twin of Launce in *Two Gentlemen*. He is so intent on amusing himself that he plays a cruel practical joke on his own father. He carries messages for Lorenzo and Jessica with the usual foolish additions of his kind. He is described by Shylock as like an unruly pet: "Kind enough, but a huge feeder,/ Snail-slow in profit, and he sleeps by day/ More than the wild-cat."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1. . . . Nfd! sets White insoluble problems, eg, 2, Rxd8+ Nxd8 and now the bishop on g7 is lost as 3, Bxf6 Qe1+ leads to mate.

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The Charity Commissioners have made a Scheme for these charities. A copy of the Scheme can be seen for the next month at St. Dunstan's 12/14 Harcourt Street London W1A 4XB and at St. Dunstan's House Ovingdean Brighton, East Sussex BN2 7BX, or a copy can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to St. Alban's House 57/60 Haymarket London SW1Y 4QX quoting the reference above.
Dated the 3rd day of November 1995

CLARKE, DENNIS ANTHONY THOMAS CLARKE, otherwise ANTHONY THOMAS CLARKE late of Llanelli, Dyfed died there on 22 May 1993. (Estate about £5,000)

EDWARDS, DOROTHY MARY EDWARDS Spinster late of Wrexham, Clwyd died there on 17 January 1996. (Estate about £80,000)

GILLOT, TREVOR GILLOT late of Sheffield died there on 17 August 1994. (Estate about £26,000)

GODSHERE, ALMA GODSHERE late of Southsea, Hampshire died at Portsmouth, Hampshire on 2 August 1996. (Estate about £110,000)

HARRIS, MARGARET HARRIS Spinster late of Woodchurch, Wirral, Merseyside died at Bebington, Wirral, Merseyside on 26 August 1995. (Estate about £18,000)

HURRY, FRANCIS EARDLEY HURRY late of Northampton died there on 16 December 1994. (Estate about £21,000)

LAIB, ERIC PAUL LAIB late of West Bromwich, London SW10 died there on 11 October 1994. (Estate about £33,000)

PERCIVAL, EDITH MAY PERCIVAL Spinster late of Knutsford, Cheshire died at Macclesfield, Cheshire on 27 November 1991. (Estate about £60,000)

RODGERS, GEORGE RODGERS late of Manor Park, London E12 died at Plaistow, London E13 on 27 March 1995. (Estate about £4,900)

WARD, IRENE MADELINE WARD Spinster late of Birmingham died there on 28 October 1994. (Estate about £200,000)

WATTS, MARY ELIZABETH WATTS otherwise MARY WATTS Widow late of Brixton, London SW9 died at Lambeth, London SE1 on 17 August 1994. (Estate about £10,000)

WRIGHT, REGINALD WRIGHT late of Epsom, Surrey died there on 7 January 1994. (Estate about £3,000)

The kin of the above-named are requested to apply to the Treasury Solicitor (BV), Queen Anne's Chambers, 28 Broadway, London SW1H 9JS, (within which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate.

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Pursuant to the provisions of the Company's Articles of Association, the Company hereby gives notice of its intention to divest unmarketable parcels of shares by instructing a stockbroker to sell your unmarketable parcel of shares on market through the Australian Stock Exchange. The Company will bear all brokerage and stamp duty costs in relation to the sale. The proceeds of sale will be paid to you after the shares have been sold. If you are domiciled in the United Kingdom you will receive the proceeds of sale by a cheque denominated in Pounds Sterling.

Shareholders can obtain free of charge a full list of the names of the shareholders and their shareholding that are subject to divestiture by phoning National Shareholder Services Pty Ltd 010 61 8 232 0003.

If you wish to retain your shares and you have not previously advised the Company of this, then you must write to the Company notifying it of your wish to retain your shares. Such notice must be received by the Company by no later than 11 December 1995 and should be sent to: The Company Secretary, Gold Mines of Kalgoorlie Limited, 100 Hutt Street, Adelaide 5000 South Australia.

The company intends to divest the unmarketable parcels of the following shareholders:
I. C. Butt 46, C. P. Carle 7, P. J. Hardy & J. Hardy 20, M. M. Heaver 34, S. S. Kolomainen 34, R. Lewis 17, J. Marar 13, G. Monnier 3, R. D. B. Partridge 5, T. N. Pedrick 1, M. G. Rea 34, M. Smith 66, O. M. Steele 20, Stimvak International Ltd 51, H. Sutton 14, J. F. Walker 53, J. Watson 34, G. Wharton 79, I. M. Wilson 44, V. McElwain 34, J. B. McKinley 84.

342567

POSGOLD LIMITED
A.C.N. 007 511 006

UNMARKETABLE PARCELS OF SHARES

To: Holders of Unmarketable Parcels of Shares in PosGold Limited ("the Company")

Pursuant to the provisions of the Company's Articles of Association, the Company hereby gives notice of its intention to divest unmarketable parcels of shares by instructing a stockbroker to sell your unmarketable parcel of shares on market through the Australian Stock Exchange. The Company will bear all brokerage and stamp duty costs in relation to the sale. The proceeds of sale will be paid to you after the shares have been sold. If you are domiciled in the United Kingdom you will receive the proceeds of sale by a cheque denominated in Pounds Sterling.

Shareholders can obtain free of charge a full list of the names of the shareholders and their shareholding that are subject to divestiture by phoning National Shareholder Services Pty Ltd 010 61 8 232 0003.

If you wish to retain your shares and you have not previously advised the Company of this, then you must write to the Company notifying it of your wish to retain your shares. Such notice must be received by the Company by no later than 11 December 1995 and should be sent to: The Company Secretary, PosGold Limited, 100 Hutt Street, Adelaide 5000 South Australia.

The company intends to divest the unmarketable parcels of the following shareholders:
P. Blackwell 6, J. J. Cockburn 61, Goodshelter Investments Ltd 30, C. D. Spencer dec'd 1, UTC Securities Management Nominees Ltd 54, Vidacos Nominees Ltd 34, R. M. Williams 15, F Woodhouse 21.

342568

In the Slough County Court No 90 of 1995
Transfered from the Birmingham District Registry No 724 of 1995
INTERNATIONAL SUPPLIERS (SPARES FOR POWER STATIONS) LIMITED
In Liquidation
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that David Nisbet of Messrs. Casson Beckman & Partners, Rolleon House, 185 Dover Street, London W1E 6BJ, was appointed Liquidator of the above Company at a meeting of the creditors and the contributories held on 7 November 1995.
Creditors who have not yet proved their debt must forward their proofs of debt to me by 21 December 1995, failing which they may be excluded from any subsequent dividend declared.
Dated this 9.11.1995
D NISBET, Liquidator.

LEGAL NOTICES

The Insolvency Act 1986
No 004622 of 1995
Essex International Investment Limited
(In Liquidation)
In accordance with Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1987, J B Stephenson and C M Haig of Neville Russell, 246, Bishopsgate, London, EC2M 4PB, give notice that we were appointed Joint Liquidators of the above on 1 November 1995.
J B Stephenson, Joint Liquidator
8 November 1995.

LEGAL NOTICES

Integra Business Solutions Limited
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98(2) of the INSOLVENCY ACT 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Chantrey Vellacott, Russell Square House, 10-12 Russell Square, London WC1B 5LF at 11.00 a.m. on 30 November 1995 for the purposes of having laid before it a copy of the report prepared by the Administrative Receivers under Section 48 of the said Act. The meeting may, if it thinks fit, establish a committee to exercise the functions conferred on creditors'.
Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting. Other creditors are entitled to vote if:-
They have delivered to us at Russell Berners House, 10-12 Russell Square, London, WC1B 5LF no later than 12.00 hours on 29 November 1995 written details of the debts they claim to be due to them from the company, and the claim has been duly admitted under the provisions of the Rule 3.11 of the Insolvency Rules 1986;
and
There has been lodged with us any proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf.
Dated 13 November 1995
S.R.A. CALLAGHAN, Joint Administrative Receiver

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF SOLE LIQUIDATOR AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS TO CLAIM
INTERNATIONAL NETWORK TELEVISION PLC
(IN LIQUIDATION)
Principal Trading Address: The Clove Building, 4 Maguire Street, London SE1 2NQ
Company Number: 2984116
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that on 6 November 1995, N G Atkinson was appointed liquidator of the above named company (creditors' voluntary winding up).
Creditors of the company who have not already done so should submit their claims in writing to the liquidator at the following address under reference: B539/ROF/TJOC
Touche Ross & Co
PO Box 810, Celtic House, 8-9 East Harding Street, London EC4A 3AS.

OSPL GROUP LIMITED
Registered Number: 1342014, Trading Name: OSPL GROUP LIMITED Nature of Business: Electronic Contractors. Trade Classification: 11. Date of Appointment of Administrative Receivers: 7 November 1995. Name of person appointing the Administrative Receivers: T.W. GHENG BEHEER B.V., Names of persons appointed: M S Langley FCCA FSPI and T Papaioulos FCA FCCA FSPI both of Langley & Partners, Langley House, Park Road, London N2 8EX. Office Holder No. 002264 and 005496. Joint Administrative Receivers.

CYANAMID (UK) HOLDINGS LTD
(IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
COMPANY NUMBER: 2380699
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: On 31 October 1995 the above company was placed into Members' Voluntary Liquidation and John Hill and Martin Fishman of Arthur Andersen, Abbots House, Abbey Street, Reading RG1 3BD, were appointed Joint Liquidators by the Members.
The Joint Liquidators give notice pursuant to Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the company must send details, in writing, of any claim against the company to J R Hill, Arthur Andersen, Abbots House, Abbey Street, Reading RG1 3BD by 31 December 1995.
The Joint Liquidators also give notice under the provisions of Rule 4.182A(6) that on 31 January 1996 they intend to make a final return to creditors who have submitted claims by 31 December 1995 and that there will be no further distribution to any person in respect of a debt not already proved.
The company is able to pay all of its known creditors in full.
Dated 9th November 1995
M FISHMAN, Joint Liquidator.

TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE:
0171-782 7344
FAX: 0171-782 7827
Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

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هكذا من الاصل

Myland helps Sherwood to milestone

By Julian Muscat

IF TIME'S passage dims the identity of his 500th winner under Rules, Oliver Sherwood will hardly forget the circumstances behind Myland's unlikely victory in the Nissan Fleet Novices' Chase at Kempton yesterday.

Sherwood must have hoped only for the horse's safe return after the six-year-old took the thirteenth fence by the roots. Instead, Myland recovered to overturn a 20-length deficit on the odds-on favourite, Miracle Man, in the hands of Jamie Osborne. It was a performance to raise the spirits.

Osborne must have been reflecting on the positive effect of Myland's running in blinkers for the first time as the combination contested the lead with Miracle Man. But Myland's lapse of concentration, allied to the heavy fall of Better Bythe Glass at the next fence, left Miracle Man seemingly beyond recall at the entrance to the straight.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: MAAMUR (2.40 Warwick)
Next best: Lightening Lad (4.00 Wincanton)

Even Osborne held out little hope at that stage. "I thought I'd have a go but I'd probably be wasting my time," he related. "It was only between the last two fences that I thought I'd get there. Until then, I felt the leader would quicken away from me as soon as I got anywhere near him."

Sherwood, for his part, would not have been interested in the finer details. The 499 winners since The Breener opened the trainer's account at Newbury have been gained over 11 seasons, and there was a pleasing symmetry in the fact that Myland carries the Bonusprint colours of George Ward. More years ago than he cared to remember, Sherwood celebrated a cluster of victories aboard the Ward-owned Esparto in his former guise as a leading amateur rider. Ward, too, will fondly remember the afternoon: his Andanito, this one trained by Lady Herries, could not have been more impressive in landing the concluding bumper.

Coonawara extended the rich pickings of Tim Forster's string with a searching display of front-running in the Limber Hill Chase. This was much more like it from the nine-year-old, whose promise evaporated after his crashing fall in the Arkle Trophy Chase at Cheltenham 20 months ago. Coonawara has since suffered all manner of ailments, among them burst blood vessels and a series of allergies.

If Forster's absence from Kempton was something of a surprise, the reason quickly became evident when his Three Philosophers defied top weight in effortless style at Hereford.

Meanwhile, at Haydock, Couldnt Be Better held off Chatam to land the Edward Hanmer Memorial Chase and now heads for the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup on Saturday week. Chatam, a previous winner of the Newbury feature, is to renew rivalry on 4lb better terms.

In London last night, John Dunlop received the prestigious Cartier Award of Merit to set the seal on an outstanding season, his first as champion trainer. However, the Arundel-based trainer was recognised as much for his prowess with thoroughbreds as his tireless charity work. The award could hardly have been more deserved.

In the equine department, Ridgewood Pearl's outstanding victory in the Breeders' Cup Mile secured her the accolade of Horse of the Year. The Irish filly also topped the three-year-old category, ahead of Lammtarra, who emerged as the three-year-old colt of 1995.

There is no finer way to reflect on any Flat season than at Cartier's Awards dinner. Other horses to receive accolades were Alhaarth (two-year-old colt); Blue Duster (two-year-old filly); Hever Golf Rose (sprinter); Double Trigger (stayer) and Further Flight (older horse).

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



The blinkered Myland negotiates the water jump safely on his way to a remarkable victory in the novice chase at Kempton yesterday

WINCANTON

THUNDERER

1.30 All Clear
2.00 Harwell Lad
2.30 Clever Shepherd
3.00 See More Business
3.30 Airtrak
4.00 Cheryl's Lad

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robenson) B Hall 12-0 B West (7) 88

Racecard number Six-figure form (F - fell P - pulled up. U - unseated rider B - brought down S - stopped up R - refused D - disqualified). Horse's name Days since last outing. F - fit flat. (B - blinkers. V - visor H - hood. E - Eyeshield C - course winner D - distance winner CD - course and distance winner BF - beaten favourite in latest race) Going on which horse has won (F - firm, good to firm, hard G - good S - soft, good to soft, heavy) Owner in brackets Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD SIS

1.30 UWESU STILL STANDING NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,040: 2m) (11 runners)

101	04F-136	MUCH SOUGHT AFTER 47 (F) (The MSA Partnership) N Burke 5-11-12 .	G Bradley	97
102	/25225/	CAWARRA BOY 578 (Mrs M Holdem) C James 7-11-9 . . .	Mr E James	–
105	U36-	BLURRED IMAGE 65F (C Wilkinson) Miss G Kelleway 4-11-5	B Powell	98
104	22-4213	ALL CLEAR 40 (D,BF,G) (A Lomas) M Pipe 4-11-7 . .	D Bridgwater	90
105	0144400-	RIVER LEVEN 267 (B,S) (R Bardsworth) D Gandolfo 6-11-1 . . .	M Dwyer	94
106	40P12D	LITTLE HOOLIGAN 7 (B,BF,F) (G Edwards) G Edwards 4-10-8	A P McCoy	99
107	P0-4	VINTAGE RED 19 (Special Reserve Racing) N Twiston-Davies 5-10-3 .	C Maude	83
108	0/060-00	NORTHERN SINGER 7 (J Panes) R Hodges 5-10-1	T Dascombe (5)	95
109	F/30/40-	PIGALLE WONDER 184 (D G & D Robinson) N Babbage 7-10-0 .	V Slattery	80
110	0/90-RP	CARNIVAL KID 152 (Mrs M Best) N Bishop 5-10-0	R Greene	81
111	60P-54	HIGHTOWN CAVALIER 16 (Miss R Dobson) R Hodges 4-10-0	J Harris (7)	–

Long handicap: Pigalle Wonder 9-11, Carnival Kid 9-10 Hightown Cavalier 9-10

BETTING: 5-2 All Clear, 3-1 Little Hooligan, 5-1 Vintage Red, 6-1 River Leven 7-1 Much Sought After 8-1 Northern Singer 10-1 Blurred Image, 12-1 Cawarra Boy, 16-1 others.

1994: INCHCARLOCH 5-11-1 N Williamson (7-1) J King 21 ran

FORM FOCUS

MUCH SOUGHT AFTER 15¼l 6th of 14 to The Last Fling in Chepstow novices' handicap hurdle (2m 4f 110yd, good) CAWARRA BOY 10½l 5th of 16 to Teen Jay in Stratford novices' handicap hurdle (2m 110yd, good to soft) April 94 BLURRED IMAGE 6½l 3rd of 9 to McGillycuddy Reeks in Newton Abbot novice hurdle (2m 1f, good to firm) penultimate start ALL CLEAR beat Zahad 3l in 14-runner selling novice hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m, good) penultimate start LITTLE HOOLIGAN beat Tonys Mist 1¼l in 12-runner Taunton selling handicap hurdle (2m 1f, good to firm) with NORTHERN SINGER (4lb better) 7l 3rd. (First four disqualified for taking wrong course) Previously LITTLE HOOLIGAN 13¼l 2nd of 6 to Yes Man in Exeter handicap hurdle (2m 3f, good to firm) with HIGHTOWN CAVALIER (4lb better) 3¾l 4th

Selection: LITTLE HOOLIGAN

2.00 CHARD NOVICES CHASE (£3,765 3m 1f 110yd) (3 runners)

201	11-11	HARWELL LAD 13 (F,G) (H Westhead) R Alner 6-11-12 .	Mr R Nuttall	99
202	P/U/F-	KINGSLEY SINGER 263P (Duckhaven Stud) F Baker 7-11-0 . .	B Powell	–
203	1/135-2	OTTOWA 15 (6,S) (P Barber) P Nicholls 5-10-12 .	A P McCoy	98

BETTING: 4-5 Harwell Lad, Evens Ottowa, 50-1 Kingsley Singer

1994: MAD THYME 7-11-0 (A Fitzgerald (9-2) N Gaselee 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

HARWELL LAD completed double, beat Rivage Bleu 20l on 7-runner amateur riders' novices' handicap chase at Uttoxeter (2m 5f, good). KINGSLEY SINGER close 4th when fell 8th in a restricted at Bishops Court (soft) OTTOWA 16l 2nd of 11 to Do Rightly in a novice chase at Newton Abbot (2m 5f 110yd, good to soft)

Selection: HARWELL LAD

2.30 HAMILTON LITESTAT HANDICAP CHASE
(£5,329: 3m 1f 110yd) (12 runners)

301	112U6P-	MAD THYME 209 (C,G,S) (R Jenks) N Gaselee 8-12-0 .	J R Kavanagh	86
302	21R151-	MR FLANAGAN 231 (CD,G,S) (Mrs R Stanley) C Brooks 9-11-11 .	G Bradley	91
303	36U213-	CLEVER SHEPHERD 342 (D,F,G) (Miss H Cope) P Hobbs 10-11-9	Peter Hobbs	99
304	121/2P-	SMITH'S BAND 246 (6,S) (A Smith) Mrs J Pitman 7-11-9 . .	R Farrant	92
305	52514-3	SUNLEY BAY 12 (CD,G,S) (Mrs C Saleman) P Nicholls 9-11-9 .	P Hide	96
306	2/44253-	ACAJOU III 301 (S) (R Ogden) A Turnell 7-11-5	P Carberry	97
307	3222/6	NORMAN CONQUEROR 637 (F,G) (Queen Elizabeth) T Thompson Jones 10-11-4	G McCourt	–
308	P13-221	ROMANY CREEK 10 (D,F,G,S) (Duke of Atholl) G Balding 6-10-11 (4ex)	A P McCoy	95
309	0/5F431-	LANDSKER MISSILE 238 (C,S) (Mrs J L Watts) M Pipe 6-10-9 .	D Bridgwater	95
310	2/64413-	SUPER MALT 230 (F,6,S) (F Allison) B Meehan 7-10-5 . . .	B Powell	86
311	4F231P-	STEEPLE JACK 243 (S) (R Bishop) R Bishop 8-10-5	R Greene	89
312	2R3-U15	BLUSTERY FELLOW 112 (BF,F,G) (Mrs R Humphries) N Twiston-Davies 10-10-5	C Maude	96

BETTING: 9-4 Romany Creek, 9-2 Mr Flanagan, 5-1 Clever Shepherd, 6-1 Smith's Band, 8-1 Landsker Missile, 10-1 Acajou III, Sunley Bay, 12-1 others.

1994: FLYER'S NAP 8-10-11 S Earle (6-1) R Alner 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

MR FLANAGAN beat Pop Song 1l in a 12-runner handicap chase at Chepstow (3m, good to soft) CLEVER SHEPHERD 3¼l 3rd of 7 to Whispering Steel in a handicap chase at Cheltenham (3m 1f 110yd, good to soft) SUNLEY BAY beat Windy Ways ¾l in a 10-runner amateur riders' handicap chase over course and distance (good to soft), March. ROMANY CREEK beat Ninda 3½l in 6-runner handicap chase at Carlisle (3m, good to firm) LANDSKER MISSILE beat Maestro Paul 25l in an 8-runner novice chase here (2m 5f, good to soft) SUPER MALT beat Four Deep 2½l in an 11-runner novices' handicap chase at Cheltenham (2m 5f, soft) on penultimate start. SUNLEY BAY beat Windy Ways ¾l in a 10-runner amateur riders' handicap chase over course and distance (good to soft), March. ROMANY CREEK beat Ninda 3½l in 6-runner handicap chase at Carlisle (3m, good to

Selection: ROMANY CREEK (nap)

3.00 GREAT WESTERN NOVICES HURDLE (£3,727: 2m 6f) (11 runners)

401	43/422-1	BELL ONE 16 (F) (Mrs J Selwick) A Dunn 6-11-8 . . .	Peter Hobbs	96
402	11F-1	SEE MORE BUSINESS 12 (S) (J Keighley) P Nicholls 5-11-8 .	A P McCoy	99
403	PPPS/	CHARTER SPRINGS 919 (Miss C Horlen) Miss C Horlen 9-11-4 .	C Maude	–
404	P/005/	CHUKKARID 1045 (R Cheetham) J Bosley 9-11-4 . . .	DOUBTFUL	–
405	0/625-43	DARING KING 16 (Cleeve Stables) M Bolton 5-11-4	P Hide	90
406	0	JUST ALBERT 27 (A T Mines) Mrs J Pitman 5-11-4 . . .	R Farrant	–
407	/00463-	MELLION PRIDE 208 (Si Mellion Estates) P Hobbs 7-11-4 .	D Bridgwater	86
408	00/4403-	QUARRY HOUSE 218 (Mrs E Chappell) D Chappell 7-11-4 .	G Upton	91
409	60/	TIPPING ALONG 493 (D Gandolfo) D Gandolfo 6-11-4 .	M Dwyer	–
410	62-	YAHMI 49F (W Stun) J Old 5-11-4	T Grantham	88
411	2-0	ST KITTS 10F (T Lightbowne) W G M Turner 4-10-13 .	P Holley	84

BETTING: 6-4 See More Business, 7-4 Bell One, 5-1 Yahmi, 8-1 Quarry House, Mellion Pride, 10-1 Daring King, 12-1 St Kitts, 14-1 others

1994: STRONG GROVE 6-10-9 J Osborne (6-4 fav) O Sherwood 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

BELL ONE beat Tight Fist 2l in a 10-runner novice hurdle at Exeter (2m 1f 110yd, good to firm). SEE MORE BUSINESS beat Queen Of Spades 15l in 16-runner novice hurdle at Chepstow (2m 4l 110yd, good to soft) DARING KING 21¾l 3rd of 6 to Yes Man in a novices' handicap hurdle at Exeter (2m 3f, good to firm) MELLION PRIDE neck and 7l 3rd of 11 to Deduce in a novices' handicap hurdle at Ayr (2m 6l, good to firm). QUARRY HOUSE 26l 3rd of 16 to Killone Abbot in a novice hurdle at Ayr (2m 4l, good) YAHMI 5l 2nd of 7 to Tipping Tim in a novice hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 5f 110yd, good to firm)

Selection: BELL ONE

3.30 CERNE ABBAS NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,834: 2m 5f) (11 runners)

501	431113	POLDEN PRIDE 16 (F) (D Lockyer) G Balding 7-11-10	A P McCoy	88
502	022S-2F	FATHER POWER 3 (F Bowling) P Hobbs 7-11-6 . .	Peter Hobbs	89
503	0/PPP-U2	COURT MELODY 40 (G,S) (M Coburn) P Nicholls 7-11-1	D Bridgwater	90
504	3/1/245-	SHARP PERFORMER 302 (G) (Mrs S Elen) K Bailey 6-11-0	A Thornton	–
505	44F6/2-9	TAKE CHANCES 19 (Mrs N Dutfield) Mrs P Dutfield 7-10-13 . . .	P Holley	87
506	33053-F	AIRTRAK 6 (BF) (Amtrak Express Parcels Ltd) M Henderson 6-10-13	J R Kavanagh	–
507	04/4P5A-	TAKE BY STORM 200 (Mrs R Blackburn) R Buckler 8-10-10 .	B Powell	92
508	20/2-	GARRISON COMMANDER 367 (R Ogden) A Turnell 6-10-9 . .	P Carberry	92
509	56F422	TRUST DEED 9 (B,F,G) (M Endicott) S Knight 7-10-2 . .	G Upton	99
510	004P-04	MONKS JAY 16 (J Cave) G Thorner 6-10-0	C Maude	–
511	0P0P0/0-	MAGGIE TEE 378 (R Scorpe) N Mitchell 7-10-0 . . .	R Davis	–

Long handicap: Monks Jay 9-7, Maggie Tee 9-6

BETTING: 5-2 Polden Pride, 3-1 Airtrak, 5-1 Trust Deed, 6-1 Garrison Commander, 8-1 Court Melody, 10-1 Take By Storm, 12-1 others

1994: AMTRAK EXPRESS 7-11-6 M A Fitzgerald (5-2) N Henderson 4 ran

FORM FOCUS

POLDEN PRIDE 4l 3rd of 13 to Certain Angle in a novices' handicap chase at Exeter (2m 6f 110yd, good to firm) with MONKS JAY 30l 4th. FATHER POWER 20l 2nd of 3 to Jackson Flint in a novice chase at Ascot (2m 3f 110yd, good to firm) on penultimate start. COURT MELODY 16l 2nd of 9 to Rocco in a novice chase at Worcester (2m 7f, good) SHARP PERFORMER best effort last season when 13l 2nd of 12 to Nordansk in a handicap hurdle at Towcester (2m, soft) TAKE CHANCES 10l 2nd of 14 to Abcalomo Lady in a novice chase at Exeter (2m 2f, good) penultimate start, December 1994 TAKE BY STORM 3¼l 3rd of 4 to Mr Genealogy in a novice chase at Taunton (2m 110yd, hard) GARRISON COMMANDER 7l 2nd of 7 to Hardy in a novice chase at Worcester (2m 7f, good) TRUST DEED 1¾l 2nd of 3 to Fairy Park in a handicap chase at Ludlow (3m, firm)

Selection: POLDEN PRIDE

4.00 WESSEX HANDICAP HURDLE
(£3,522: 2m) (7 runners)

601	65110-0	CADOUGOLD 47 (D,F,G,S) (D Johnson) M Pipe 4-12-0 . .	D Bridgwater	92
602	4113-	MOMENT OF GLORY 341 (D,6,S) (D Moore) D Gandolfo 4-11-17	M Dwyer	97
603	06510-3	KEEP ME IN MIND 26 (CD,F,S) (P Tory) N Mitchell 6-11-5 .	D Skyrme	99
604	11120-1	LIGHTENING LAD 12 (CD,G,S) (R Peterson) J King 7-11-5 .	G Upton	98
605	31/31FP-	CHERYL'S LAD 244 (F,S) (Mrs E Baines) N Henderson 5-10-10	J R Kavanagh	92
606	4/0621-	SPRING SAINT 318 (S) (Miss C Horler) Miss C Horler 6-10-0 .	C Maude	93
607	5414/0P-	MUSTAHIL 401F (F) (Unley Farm Holiday Centre) R Hodges 6-10-0	T Dascombe (5)	–

Long handicap: Spring Saint 9-7, Mustahil 8-12.

BETTING: 7-4 Lightening Lad, 11-4 Moment Of Glory, 5-1 Cadougold, Cheryl's Lad, 6-1 Keep Me In Mind, 12-1 Spring Saint, 33-1 Mustahil.

1994: THE CAUNRUE 6-8-9 A P McCoy (5-1) G Balding 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

CADOUGOLD 47l 8th of 10 to Romancer in a handicap h urdle at Chepstow (2m 110yd, good). MOMENT OF GLORY 3¾l 3rd of 7 to Ardarm in the grade II TJH Summit Junior Hurdle at Lingfield (2m 110yd, heavy). KEEP ME IN MIND best effort last season, beat Forest Feather short-head in a 5-runner handicap hurdle at Chepstow (2m 4l 110yd, firm). LIGHTENING LAD beat Martius 2½l in a 16-runner handicap hurdle at Chepstow (2m 110yd, good to soft) CHERYL'S LAD best effort last season, beat Nine O Three 12l in 11-runner novice hurdle at Taunton (2m 1l, soft) SPRING SAINT beat Pennymoor Prince 6l in a 9-runner novices' handicap hurdle at Exeter (2m 2f, heavy).

Selection: LIGHTENING LAD

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
Mrs J Pitman	21	67	31.3	T Dascombe	3	15	20.0
M Pipe	35	123	28.5	G Bradley	8	44	18.2
N Twiston-Davies	10	49	20.4	G McCourt	6	41	14.6
R Alner	10	51	19.6	P Hide	4	29	13.8
A Turnell	8	46	17.4	D Bridgwater	4	30	13.3
D Gandolfo	5	31	16.1	J R Kavanagh	4	35	11.4

WARWICK

THUNDERER

12.40 Karshi. 1.10 Inculcate. 1.40 Convoy. 2.10 Larry's Lord. 2.40 Maamur. 3.10 ONESEVENFOUR (nap). 3.40 Eskimo Nel.

GOING: GOOD SIS

12.40 ASHORNE NOVICES HURDLE
(Div I: £2,616: 2m) (16 runners)

1	5	ANDRE'S AFFAIR 25 D Ilreach Davis 4-10-12 . . .	I Lawrence	–
2	F5-	BEAUMAN 10F P Evans 5-10-12	A Dobbin	98
3	6	BONJOUR 12 C Mann 5-10-12	J Railton	93
4		CHILI HEIGHTS 28F (V) G Balding 5-10-12 . . .	B Clifford	–
5		CHIPARUS K Bailey 6-10-12	S McNeill	–
6	0-	HARLEQUIN BAY 218 J Tuck 5-10-12	L Harvey	–
7		KARSHI 439F Mrs H Knight 5-10-12 . . .	J F Titley	–
8	6-4	MR KERMIT 19 A J Wilson 4-10-12 . . .	D Leahy	–
9	04	OUR MICA 42 L Barratt 5-10-12	S Wynne	61
10	P/P	POSSUM PICKER 22 C Popham 5-10-12 . . .	D Gallagher	–
11	30-	REVEREND BROWN 250 O Sherwood 5-10-12 . . .	J Osborne	–
12	06-	SIR LEONARD 264 S Sherwood 5-10-12 . . .	T Jenks	–
13	00-	STAR MANAGER 23F P Cole 5-10-12	W Marston	–
14		STRONG GLEN P Wegmann 7-10-12 . . .	S Fowler (7)	–
15	0	TANSEEQ 12 M Meaghe 4-10-12	L Wyer	75
16	534-	TEINDIN 239 T Forster 4-10-12	A Maguire	99

3-1 Tansen, 4-1 Chiparus, 5-1 Reverend Brown, 6-1 Karshi, 10-1 Beauman, Chili Heights Star Manager, 14-1 others

1.10 ASHORNE NOVICES HURDLE
(Div II: £2,595: 2m) (16)

1	P51	LAJADHAL 9 (F) K Bishop 6-11-5	L Harvey	62
2	5-5	DIVERTIMENTO 47 J Mackie 4-10-12	T Eley	74
3	640-	HANGING GROVE 231 P Murphy 5-10-12 . . .	M Mann	–
4	20-0	INCULCATE 51 C Weedon 4-10-12	M Perrett	99
5	P-R5	NORTHERN HIGHLIGHT 30 T McGovern 4-10-12	A Maguire	–
6	0-05	ORCHESTRAL DESIGNS 125 G Ham 4-10-12 .	S Burrough	–
7	000-	PLEASURE CRUISE 201 J Cresswell 5-10-12	W McFarland	56
8	U-0	RUSTIC CRAFT 12 Miss L Shelly 5-10-12 .	J A McCarthy	–
9	/PP-	SAVAUT 271 M Wilkinson 6-10-12	R Supple	–
10	40-	SCARLET RAMBLER 372 N Twiston-Davies 6-10-12	T Jenks	–
11		WEEHERY 586F M Barraclough 6-10-12 . .	S McNeill	–
12	01-	WYNBERG 215 (F) T Forster 4-10-12 . . .	S Wynne	–
13	1-	ZEPHYRUS 383 (G) O Sherwood 5-10-12 . . .	J Osborne	–
14		LADY LACEY 47F 6 Balding 8-10-7 . . .	B Fenton (5)	–
15	2F	MOONLIGHT AIR 14 J Spearing 4-10-7 . . .	R Johnson (5)	86
16	4	YOUR MOST WELCOME 58F O Brooch Davis 4-10-7	F Leahy (3)	–

5-2 Zephyrus, 7-2 Moonlight Air, 4-1 Inculcate, 6-1 Wynberg, 8-1 Lady Lacey, 10-1 Scarlet Rambler, 12-1 others.

1.40 HARBURY SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
(£1,794: 2m 4f 110yd) (18)

1	/1-4	DECIDED 40 (F,G,S) R Lee 12-12-0	A Maguire	84
2	4/P-	CHELSEA NATIVE 408 (D,G,S) K Burke 8-11-13	A Lamach (3)	–
3	3155	CELCIUS 28 (B,D,F,G,S) M Pipe 17-11-9 . . .	J Lower	90
4	404-	CARFAX 173F (D,6,S) R Hoad 10-11-5 . . .	A Dobbin	98
5	21/0	SHANAKEE 20 (D,F) B Llewellyn 8-11-5 .	Mr J L Llewellyn	–
6	243/	CONVOY 552 (F) C Mann 5-11-3	Miss Meredith Kelly (7)	–
7	3-46	ONE RISK 10F (S) C Allen 4-11-2	D Gallagher	87
8	P3-P	ERLEMO 140 (B,S) W Clay 6-11-2	Diana Clay	86
9	P6-3	DESERT PRESIDENT 13 R Hoad 4-11-0 . . .	J Osborne	90
10	0-40	ALWAYS READY 15 (F,G) N Mitchell 9-10-11	Sophie Mitchell (5)	94
11	25/0	MANZOOR SAVADAN 21 (G) P Murphy 7-10-9 .	E Murphy	–
12	2520	ALWAYS ALEX 40 (F,G) J Allen 8-10-7 . . .	Gary Lyons	89
13	26-0	COBB GATE 22 (B,G) B Stevens 7-10-5 . . .	M Stevens	84
14	P-45	CALDERVALE 12 L Barratt 5-10-4	T Hunt	88
15	436	SMART DEBUTANTE 66 (F) Miss Wilton 6-10-1 .	M Rolnstine (7)	87
16	400-	KLONDIKE 246 (V,S) Mrs P Sly 5-10-0 . . .	R Morley	94
17	00-0	DANCING DANCER 140 (F) D Geraghty 6-10-0 . . .	R Supple	91
18	000/	THE TARTAN DYER 932 W Bethell 8-10-0	A S Smith	–

5-1 Caldervale, 11-2 Shanakee, 6-1 Celcius, 7-1 Lone Risk, 8-1 Decided, Convoy, 10-1 Desert President, 12-1 others.

2.10 ETHELFLEDA'S MOUNT CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,513: 2m 4f) (8)

1	43-2	CHANGE THE ACT 12 (D,F,6,S) Mrs V Williams 10-12-0	R Johnson	94
2	P2-P	SARTORIUS 138 (F,6,S) T Thomson Jones 9-11-11	G Tormey	45
3	12-5	ARDCRONEY CHIEF 20 (D,G,S) D Gandolfo 9-11-8	D Leahy	90
4	122-	MAN OF THE GRANGE 255 (D,F,S) W Clay 9-11-5	B Fenton	86
5	13-F	LARRY'S LORD 12 (F,S) P Nicholls 6-10-12 . .	Guy Lewis	88
6	5U-F	BUCKS SURPRISE 20 (D,G) J Mackie 7-10-11 . .	G Hogan	91
7	UPP-	ZAMIL 280 (D,G,S) A Barber 10-10-0	A Lamach	77
8	46P-	BAVARD BAY 261 (B,S) G Barnett 11-10-0 .	P McLoughlin	–

2-1 Larry's Lord, 7-2 Ardcroney Chief, 4-1 Change The Act, 11-2 Man Of The Grange, 6-1 Sartorius, 14-1 Bucks Surprise, 25-1 others

2.40 WELLSFORD HANDICAP CHASE
(£7,003: 3m 2f) (8)

1	P2-4	MALCOM 68 (CD,BF,F,S) Mrs J Pitman 9-11-10 .	W Marston	94
2	1F1-	HILL TRIX 244 (D,G,S) K Bishop 9-11-7 . .	DOUBTFUL	90
3	2430	ANDRELOT 5 (B,C,F,G) P Bowen 8-11-7 . .	R Johnson (5)	91
4	3R0-	CAMELOT KNIGHT 206 (S) N Twiston-Davies 9-11-6	T Jenks	98
5	2-13	TOOGOOD TO BE TRUE 19 (F,G,S) M H Easterby 7-11-4	L Wyer	92
6	10-5	HILLWALK 47 (F,G,S) R Curtis 9-11-1 . . .	D Morris	90
7	311-	MAAMUR 236 (CD,6,S) T Forster 7-10-11 . . .	J Railton	88
8	4-12	NINFA 10 (F,G,S) G Richards 7-10-6	A Dobbin	95

5-2 Toogood To Be True, 4-1 Maamur, 9-2 Ninfa, 5-1 Camelot Knight, 11-2 Malcom, 8-1 others.

3.10 VARLEY HIBBS MAIDEN CHASE
(£3,756: 3m 2f) (9)

1	005/	CHURCH LAW 1397 Mrs L Taylor 8-11-2 . . .	R Supple	–
2	00/P	CLASS OF NINETYTWO 12 T Forster 6-11-2 .	A Maguire	–
3	6P/F	GREYBURY STAR 19 K Bailey 7-11-2	J Osborne	–
4	0/	IDEAL PARTNER 593 P Nicholls 6-11-2 . . .	M A Fitzgerald	–
5	55-2	ONESEVENFOUR 26 G Richards 6-11-2	A Dobbin	99
6	00-	ROBSARD 237 G Balding 6-11-2	B Clifford	–
7	U3-1	TEATRADER 185P (F,6,S) Mrs L Richards 9-11-2	M Richards	–
8	04	THEWELLSTEPS 49 P Bowen 6-11-2 . . .	R Johnson (5)	–
9	U12/	FIGHTING TROUT 14 (G) Miss A Embiricos 8-10-11	J Ryan	88

7-4 Oneseventour, 7-2 Ideal Partner, 5-1 Teatrader, 6-1 Fighting Trout, 8-1 Greyburry Star, Robsard, 16-1 others.

3.40 UFTON HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,952: 2m) (7)

1	004-	BIG STRAND 219 (D,S) M Pipe 6-11-10 . . .	J Lower	89
2	F-51	ESKIMO NEL 47 (CD,G,S) J Spearing 4-11-9	R Johnson (5)	93
3	P2-P	PLUNDER BAY 12 (D,S) N Henderson 4-11-6	M A Fitzgerald	89
4	64/R	NATIVE CHIEFTAN 6 (D,F) S Dow 6-11-5 . . .	A Dicken	–
5	22-0	HASHAR 12 (D,F) P Wegmann 7-11-5	T Eley	69
6	1542	TEJANO GOLD 8 (D,BF,G,S) P Bradley 5-11-3	B Harding (3)	93
7	11-4	DAILY SPORT GIRL 15 (D,6,S) B Llewellyn 6-10-0	Mr J L Llewellyn	82

9-4 Eskimo Nel, 3-1 Big Strand, 7-2 Tejano Gold, 6-1 Plunder Bay, 7-1 Native Chieftan, 12-1 Daily Sport Girl, 25-1 Hashar

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: P Bowen, 3 winners from 4 runners, 75.0%. M Pipe, 27 from 107, 25.2%. N Henderson, 9 from 43, 20.9%. O Sherwood, 9 from 43, 20.9%. Miss H Knight, 5 from 26, 19.2%. N Twiston-Davies, 9 from 56, 16.1%.

JOCKEYS: T Jenks, 7 winners from 32 rides, 21.9%. M Perrett, 6 from 29, 20.7%. J Osborne, 14 from 79, 17.7%. E Murphy, 3 from 17, 17.6%. A Maguire, 13 from 75, 17.3%. D Gallagher, 4 from 28, 14.3%.

Blinkered first time

SOUTHWELL: 12.20 Dinnard. 12.50 Awfully Risky. 1.20 Runave, Arch Angel. 1.50 Dragonflight. 2.50 Bentico. 3.20 Nutcracker, Let's Hang On. WARWICK: 12.40 Chili Heights.

Leading Irish chasers clash

KLAIRON DAVIS and Merry Gale, two of Ireland's top chasers, clash in the Tipperary Racecourse Chase today.

The Jim Dreaper-trained Merry Gale, fourth in the Cheltenham Gold Cup last season, will be ridden by Richard Dunwoody on his first outing since his victory in the Martell Cup Chase at Aintree last April.

Arthur Moore also gives his Arkle Challenge Trophy Chase winner, Klairon Davis (Francis Woods), his reappearance in the two-mile contest.

A four-runner field is completed by Klairon Davis's stable companion, All The Aces, and Pat Fahy's Butches Boy, who landed the Heineken Gold Cup at Punchestown last April.

Meanwhile, Graham Bradley was reunited with Morley Street yesterday as the 1991 champion hurdler warmed up for his return from retirement.

He partnered the 11-year-old over four flights of hurdles on Toby Balding's Fyfield gallops in preparation for the Coopers & Lybrand Ascot Hurdle tomorrow. Balding said: Graham found Morley Street in excellent form. He runs unless the ground comes up a bog."

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER

12.20 Pampas Breeze. 12.50 Hawwam. 1.20 Double Diamond. 1.50 Sweet Supposin. 2.20 Sharazi. 2.50 Bentico. 3.20 Addie Pray. 3.50 Lady Sheriff.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.50 LADY SHERIFF.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 12.20 Pampas Breeze. 1.50 SWEET SUPPOSIN (nap). 3.20 Addie Pray.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: 7F-1M, LOW BEST SIS

12.20 NOTTINGHAM LIFE MANAGERS CIRCLE HANDICAP (Div I £2,789: 1m 6f) (14 runners)

1	2260	PREMIER DANCE 5 (F,G) D Haydn Jones 8-9-12 .	A Mackay 5	
2	4432	PAMPAS BREEZE 26 (BF) W Jarvis 3-9-7 . .	S Sanders 4	
3	0005	FIVE TO SEVEN 10 (C,6,S) C Thornton 6-9-5	D Pears (3) 11	
4	1301	BALLYMAC GIRL 5 (D,G,S) J Bradley 7-9-3 (5ex)	L Charnock 2	
5	3060	ROSE OF GLENN 10 (D,F,G) B Palling 4-8-11	R Perham 9	
6	0300	WILDFIRE 124 (S) R Akehurst 4-8-6 . . .	A McGlone 13	
7	5000	PHILMIST 10 (B,C,S) W Elsey 3-8-3	S Webster 3	

Playing field sales a criminal waste of talent

People who do sport do not do crime. That is the verdict of a policeman from the other side of the world, delivered last week as the Queen visited Dunedin in New Zealand. As schoolboys and girls were presented to the Queen in a giant sports hall, the policeman made his remark to a British reporter who had asked about juvenile crime. "There isn't any here," he said, "people who do sport don't do crime."

'School sport was a fertile seed-bed. We ignore it at our peril'

The policeman's superiors said later that, while it was true that Dunedin's juvenile crime rate was low, they had never measured the link, and the officer was probably going on "gut feeling". It is a gut feeling shared by many — including teachers, sports gurus, police, parents and politicians. Stephen Dorrell, when Heritage Secretary, warned that inadequate sporting provision was "a dangerous form of deprivation".

"Life in a modern society requires a high level of discipline and self-control," he said. "Sporting activity allows people to let off steam, to release pent-up energy and to enjoy the opportunity to improve skills."

So, are we giving our children enough opportunity — are we giving them a chance to do sport instead of crime? In the long, hot days of summer, the Government trumpeted its policy on sport in schools. It proposed a trebling of the amount of time devoted to sport, and a requirement that schools should make public their sporting achievements. It was welcome, because for too long the sporting tradition in Great Britain's schools has been undermined as hundreds of schools have sold off their playing fields to raise cash quickly to shore up their over-stretched budgets. It is reckoned that more than 5,000 playing fields have vanished this way in the past dozen years. Added to that, the very notion of competitive sport has been called into question by powerful voices within the teaching profession.

We ignore school sport at our peril. It was once the fertile seed-bed of modern sport, where the great ball games of rugby and football were developed and codified. The modern Olympic movement, above all, drew deeply on Britain's school tradition.

Baron Pierre de Coubertin, the French aristocrat whose vision gave birth to the Olympic Games, sought



out, and was greatly influenced by, Thomas Hughes's book, *Tom Brown's Schooldays*, but the greater influence on sporting policy today seems to be John Major's schooldays. He is on the record as confessing that "sport was the only part of school I enjoyed". He is particularly proud of his cricketing achievements — he was once, in 1956, made *Evening Standard* young cricketer of the month after taking seven wickets in a match for Rutlish Grammar School. Those, of course, were the days when most state schools had extensive and well-kept sports grounds.

Today, all too many of those green fields have vanished, and if Major is serious about his schools sport policy, he must put a stop to the sale of playing fields by cash-strapped schools and education authorities. Andy Sutch, the director of the London region of the Sports Council, reckons that the vanishing grass is a much greater problem than teachers who are reluctant to supervise games. "It's a myth that teachers won't give up their time," he said. "The Sports Council has run pilot programmes with children from mixed comprehensive schools doing sports in the evenings and we've been amazed at the commitment from the teachers. What they need, and what they work for, is the feedback from the children."

'What is needed is action. Too many fields have vanished'

What they also need, of course, are fields and pitches on which to play — not just expensively maintained grounds, but also the odd bit of grass to kick around on. "The availability of grass for informal sport in our towns and cities has been terribly eroded," Sutch said.

The politicians know what is needed. Iain Sproat, the minister responsible for sport, said: "I want team games properly organised — competitive team games, preferably those which we invented, such as soccer, rugby, hockey, cricket and netball." He even told one meeting of sports writers: "If we had more organised team games in schools, we'd have fewer little thugs like those who murdered James Bulger."

Perhaps; but what is needed from politicians is action. Here is a sad tale from one of Sproat's predecessors. In 1987, Colin Moynihan had his picture taken in a tracksuit sitting on a football at the Priest Hill Sports Centre in Ewell, Surrey, that had lain unused for five years. The centre has 30 tennis courts, 18 football pitches, nine rugby and eight hockey pitches, nine cricket squares, three pavilions and two houses. In almost his first act as minister, Moynihan declared that he was particularly keen on the maximum use of all available facilities, and that the centre would be back in use as soon as possible. Eight years later, he is long gone, and the acres remain unused and derelict.

The problem is still with us — too many children with not enough fields to play on. "People who do sport don't do crime," the New Zealand policeman said: but, if there is nowhere to play, the children cannot do sport at all. That is the real crime.

JOHN BRYANT

Clinical Graf squares account

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN NEW YORK

FOR Steffi Graf, 1995 has proved the best of times and the worst of times. Her father is still in prison, the German inland revenue is poring over her every tax return and she has had to find a way of dealing with a chronic back problem that can be treated but not cured.

However, she has won every grand slam tournament that she has entered, a feat that has earned her the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) player-of-the-year award. In playing terms, she feels that the past 12 months rank higher than her golden year of 1988, when she won the Australian, French, Wimbledon, US Open and Olympic titles.

The only hiccups in 1995 were defeats by Amanda Coetzer and Mariaan de Swardt, two South Africans. In the first round of the WTA Tour championships here on Tuesday, Graf took great delight in putting at least part of the record straight, dismissing Coetzer 6-2, 6-2.

Compared with the fraught and pale figure who fled Brighton last month after a first-round defeat, this was a new-look Graf in every sense. Wearing a new dress that made her look for all the world like a nurse, she was clinical in her approach on court and relaxed off it.

"In 1988," she said, "I was seven years younger and things were a lot easier. There is a lot more going on in my life than at that point in time.

"I've had a lot of injuries and the competition is much stronger. A lot of things have happened this year — incredible matches and different situations that have made me realise how much I love this game and how much still there is for me to gain."

Certainly, from the form that she showed on Tuesday, gaining this particular title is well within her compass. She had to wait until only the third game before breaking service, and although Coetzer staged a brief fightback in the second set, Graf needed little more than an hour to reach the quarter-finals.

For Magdalena Maleeva, the No 7 seed, life was not so simple. She was blasted off the court by Brenda Schultz-McCarthy, while Mary Joe Fernandez had to overcome a spirited challenge from Chanda Rubin.

Improving Enqvist fulfils promise with defeat of Courier



Sampras guides a backhand return during his defeat of Becker, the home favourite, in Frankfurt yesterday. Photograph: Kai Pfaffenbach

Sampras silences Becker's support

FROM STUART JONES TENNIS CORRESPONDENT IN FRANKFURT

INSPIRATION, as though it had infiltrated the air conditioning system inside the Festhalle, was deeply inhaled yesterday by the best player in the world and the fastest-rising youngster. Pete Sampras and Thomas Enqvist, winners in straight sets, were both irresistible.

The difference lay in the quality of opposition. Sampras dismantled Boris Becker, who has collected more than half of his 43 titles indoors. Enqvist dismissed Jim Courier, who was so disenchanted during the Association of Tennis Professionals championship finals last year that he infamously read a book during changeovers.

In the middle of an otherwise eloquent and graphic appraisal of Sampras's virtuosity, his victim was momentarily lost for words. "I'm sorry," Becker said, rubbing his hands across his face, "I'm still bruised all over." He had likened his experience to being struck by a freight train.

The pair had met four times here (the last being in the final a year ago when Sampras won in four sets) and the fifth match was, in Becker's opinion, exceptional. "For the first 25 minutes, that's the best he has ever played against me in this hall," he said. "He was on fire."

Sampras concurred. He could not imagine a better execution of his initial strategy, to open commandingly and douse the enthusiasm of the packed and partisan arena. In the first set, he dropped only six points on his own service and one of those was a double fault.

Early in the second set, after being passed at the net, an irritated Becker motioned for his towel to be brought to him. He mopped the supposedly damp spot which had apparently caused him to slip. The theatrical gesture was also neatly symbolic. Sampras was wiping the floor with him.

He did not, could not, maintain such a sublime level and, with spectators lining even the lofty balconies, there emerged the tantalising prospect of a third set. It lasted until the fourth point of the tie-break when Sampras, with another winning return, took a 3-1 lead. He finished with an appropriate flourish, his twelfth ace, to win 6-2, 7-6, in less than an hour and a half.

"Like all the players, he has his ups and downs," Becker added, "but he doesn't go down as regularly as the others and when he is up, he is the best." Only if Sampras's standards fall will he be prevented from claiming the title for the third time.

He is already assured of a place in the semi-finals, but the rest of the group remains unresolved. Wayne Ferreira brought himself back into contention when he recovered to beat Yevgeny Kafelnikov 3-6, 7-6, 6-1. Both the South African and Becker need to win their remaining match to join Sampras in the last four.

Courier has twice finished as the runner-up, to Sampras in 1991 and to Becker in 1992, but he has not won a match in the competition since. He admits that, after sustaining his position as the world No 1, he "hit the wall", a collision from which he took a couple of years to recover.

A rounded character, he alone among the field of eight knew that the favourite son of this colourless city is Goethe. When asked for the reason behind his resurgence, only he could stick his tongue in his cheek and reply: "Lots of orange juice and sex. You need calcium and to be relaxed."

In his opening match, though, he confessed to being "flat". He missed his first service more often than not and was credited with more double faults than aces. He struck only four other winners, committed 33 unprovoked errors and squandered the break point that he fashioned.

Nevertheless, Enqvist could not recall playing any better. "It was one of those days when you feel you can hit any ball and everything will go in," he said after his 6-3, 6-2 victory. At the age of 21, he is the youngest entrant. He started the year ranked No 60. He is now No 8.

RESULTS: Red group: T Enqvist (Swe) bt J Courier (US) 6-3, 6-2; White group: P Sampras (US) bt B Becker (Ger) 6-2, 7-6; W Ferreira (SA) bt Y Kafelnikov (Russ) 3-6, 7-6, 6-1.

Seles to lead United States in final

MONICA SELES, the joint world No 1 in women's tennis, will lead the United States against Spain, the champions, in the Fed Cup final next week. Billie Jean King, the United States captain, also named Martina Navratilova, Lindsay Davenport, Mary Joe Fernandez, Chanda Rubin, Amy Frazier and Gigi Fernandez in her team for the match in Valencia.

Seles, a former Yugoslav who is now a United States citizen, won in Toronto in her first tournament after a two-year absence from competition after being stabbed in 1993. She lost to Steffi Graf, the joint world No 1, in the finals of the US Open in early September in her only other tournament.

She had been expected to participate in the Women's Tennis Association Tour championships in New York this week, but was forced to withdraw with knee and ankle injuries.

Tim Henman, the English national champion and No 2 seed, reached the quarter-finals of the ATP Challenger event on Reunion Island, Mauritius, yesterday, beating Colin Beecher, his fellow Briton, 6-3, 2-6, 6-3.

RADIO CHOICE

No welcome on the mat

Our Father the Mountain. *Radio 4, 7.20pm.*

Edward Marriott's unhappy experiences among the jungle natives of Papua New Guinea should serve as a warning to all of us who, however well-intentioned our motives, will poke our noses into matters that do not concern us. Marriott wanted to find out whether they really were a lost tribe, as had been reported. He met them, and when he left them, he was a chastened and wiser man. He was not, however, the first person to intrude into their lives. A Lutheran pastor, with the improbable name of Herod, got there first, and had some success in balancing his God with theirs, a sacred mountain. Marriott tells his story almost diffidently, as if the truth was dramatic enough without embellishment. He could be right.

Purple Side Coasters. *Radio 4 FM, 2.00pm.*

Complex mental problems do not always lend themselves to dramatic treatment. Oversimplify them, and sufferers and experts alike will protest. Strip them of a human dimension — the storyline — and the lay listener will feel cheated. Sarah Daniels's *Purple Side Coasters* occupies the middle ground in this debate. It deals with puerperal psychosis, which can seriously twist the silver cord that binds a mother to her child. Socially worlds apart, the two mothers (Pauline Quirke, Harriet Walter) share common ground in hospital. Divisiveness lurks in the outside world. A puerperal psychosis helpline opens after the play ends.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. **4.00am** Clive Warren **6.30** Chris Evans **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Lisa I'Anson, incl at **12.30-12.45pm** Newsbeat; and at **1.15** The Net **2.00** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Mark Goodier, incl at **5.30-5.45** Newsbeat; and at **6.15** The Net **7.00** Evening Session **9.00** Soundbite **10.00** Mark Radcliffe **12.00** Claire Sturgess, incl at **12.15** The Net

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. **6.00am** Martin Kelner **6.15** Pause for Thought **7.30** Sarah Kennedy **9.15** Thought **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Anne Robinson **2.00pm** Debbie Thrower **3.30** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** The News Huddlines **7.30** David Allan **9.00** Paul Jones **9.45** The Gospel Train **10.30** The Jamesons **12.05am** Steve Madden **3.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports, incl at **5.45** Wake Up to Money **6.00** The Breakfast Programme, incl at **6.55** and **7.55** Racing Preview **8.35** The Magazine, incl at **10.35** Euronews and at **11.00** News; Gut Reaction **12.00** Midday with Mair, incl at **12.34pm** Moneycheck; and at **1.15** Entertainment News **2.05** Ruscoe on Five, incl at **3.45** Entertainment News **4.00** John Inverdale Nationwide, incl at **5.45** Entertainment News **7.00** News Extra, with Valerie Sanderson, incl **7.20** Sport **7.35** On the Line **8.05** Women on Top **9.05** SportsAmerica **10.05** News Talk **11.00** Night Extra, incl at **11.15** The Financial World Tonight **12.05am** Night Moves **2.05** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Sandy Warr **7.00** Simon Bates **10.00** Jonathan King **12.00** Tommy Boyd **2.00pm** Anna Raeburn **4.00** Scott Chisholm and Lowri Turner **7.00** Sean Bolger **9.00** Moz Dee **10.00** James Whale **1.00-6.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. **5.00am** Newsday **5.30** Europe Today **6.00** Newsday **6.30** Europe Today **7.00** News **7.15** Off the Shelf: *The Endless Knot* **7.30** Network UK **8.00** News **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** Composer **8.45** Good Books **9.00** News in German **9.15** Sport **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** BBC English **10.45** Off the Shelf: *The Endless Knot* **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Bhangra Beat **12.00** World News **12.05pm** World Business **12.15** Britain Today **12.30** Assignment **1.00** Newshour **2.00** News **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Multitrack: X-Press **3.00** News in German **3.15** The Learning World **3.30** Network UK **4.00** News **4.15** The World Today **4.30** News in German **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** Business Report **5.45** Sport **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** News in German **7.00** News **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Words of Faith **7.30** John Peel **8.00** Newshour **9.00** News **9.05** Business Report **9.15** Britain **9.30** Meridian **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** The World Today **10.45** Sport **11.00** News **11.10** Take Five **11.15** Network UK **11.45** Health Matters **Midnight** Newsdesk **12.30am** On the Move **12.45** Britain **1.00** News **1.10** Press Review **1.15** Heritage **1.45** Global Concerns **2.00** Newsday **2.30** Drama: *Anorak of Fire* **3.00** News **3.15** Sport **3.30** Focus on Faith **4.00** Newsdesk **4.30** Europe **4.45** Folk Routes

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Nick Bailey **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Lunchtime Concerto **3.00** Jamie Crick **6.00** Newsnight **6.30** Sonata **7.00** Travel Guide **8.00** Evening Concert **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00am** Sally Peterson

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono **9.00** Richard Skinner **12.00** Graham Dene **4.00pm** Nicky Horne **7.30** Paul Coyle **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00-6.00am** Robin Banks

RADIO 3

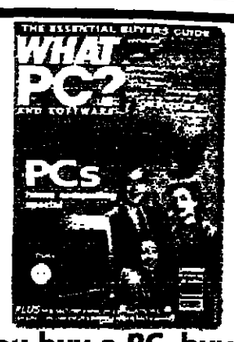
5.55am Weather **6.00 On Air.** Glazunov (Lyric Poem, Op 12); Shostakovich (Violin Concerto No 1); Godowsky (Etude after Chopin No 5 in D flat); **7.32** Mozart (Symphony No 23 in D, K181); **8.05** Bach (Brandenburg Concerto No 6 in B flat); Saint-Saëns (Carnival of the Animals)
9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gamaboccini. Including Mussorgsky (St John's Night on the Bare Mountain)
10.00 Musical Encounters. Including Fauré (Nocturne in E flat minor); **10.09** Landini (Ecco la primavera; Questa lanciull' amor); **10.16** Ravel (Piano Trio in A minor); Landini (Giunta vaga bilta); Liszt (Ce qu'on entend sur la montagne)
12.00 Composers of the Week. Ellington, Evans and Wheeler
1.00pm Fairest Isle: Wartime at the National Gallery (r)
2.00 Schools: Radio Showcase **2.05** In the News **2.25** Something to Think About **2.40** Music Workshop
3.00 Fairest Isle: The Spirits of Shakespeare *Ode on the Spirits of Shakespeare* by Thomas Linley
4.10 Murray Perahia, piano, performs works by Bach, Beethoven and Brahms (r)
5.00 The Music Machine in New England (4/5) 5.15 In Tune
7.30 BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, live from the Henry Wood Hall, Glasgow, under Jerzy Maksymiuk and Tan Dun Rolf Hind, piano, with Bruce Gremo, xun, Stephen Richardson, bass
9.30 Lilliput (4/5)
9.50 New Waves: Bingham Quartet under Martin Butler performs Stravinsky (Three Pieces for string quartet); Butler (Blegrass Variations for solo violin; Three Little Folk Games for solo piano); Bartók (Duos for two violins); Butler (Songs and Dances from a Haunted Place)
10.45 Night Waves, with Christopher Cook
11.30 The BBC Orchestras. BBC Philharmonic performs Debussy, orch Adams (Le Livre de Baudelaire); Stravinsky (Petrushka)
12.30-12.40am Fairest Isle: Catch as Catch Can 1.00-1.30 Night School. Radio Relax

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping (LW only) **6.00** News, incl Weather **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today, incl **7.25, 8.25** Sport **7.45** Thought for the Day **8.40** Short Story **8.58** Weather
9.00-10.00 Test Match Special (LW only). South Africa v England in the first Test
9.00 News (FM only) **9.05 The Moral Maze** (FM only)
10.00-10.30 News; Cinema 100: Gentlemen Prefer Blondes (FM only), by Anita Loos (2/4)
10.00 Daily Service (LW only)
10.15 This Sceptr'd Isle (LW only)
10.30 Woman's Hour (FM only from **11.00**)(12/13)
11.00-4.00 Test Match Special. South Africa v England
NB: The following programmes are FM only until 4pm
11.30 From Our Own Correspondent
12.00 News; You and Yours
12.25pm Questions of Taste, with Chris Kelly **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One
1.40 The Archers (r)
2.00 News; States of Mind: Purple Side Coasters. See Choice
3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift, with Daire Brehan
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Paul Allen reviews *Mother Courage*, starring Diana Rigg
4.45 Short Story: Birds of a Feather, by Daphne Glazer. Read by Bridget Forsyth
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 First Impressions
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Our Father the Mountain. See Choice
8.00 Analysis: What Price EMU?
8.45 Africa 95: Continent Adrift — Letters from Africa (4/6)
9.00 Does He Take Sugar?
9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.59** Weather
10.00 The World Tonight
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Spring Torrents (4/6)
11.00 Julie Enfield Investigates the Smithfield Murders (3/5)
11.30-12.00 Offspring (FM only) (r)
11.30 Today in Parliament (LW)
12.00 News, incl **12.27** Weather
12.30am The Late Book: Dr Haggard's Disease (9/10)
12.48 Shipping Forecast
1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO UK. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Gillian Maxey, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson

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How to enjoy 50 minutes with Paul Daniels

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

Paul Daniels has some of the most irritating patter in what he would, no doubt, insist on calling "the business". You can admire the magic but when it comes to marks for chit-chat . . . well, not a lot.

So any show that reduces his opportunities to hold forth in the glib, patronising style he has made his own has to be a step in the right direction. **Paul Daniels's Secrets** (BBC1) is that step.

It has dancers (of the good, old-fashioned *Summertime Special* variety), it has Debbie McGee, who combines the considerable virtues of being a lot prettier and saying a lot less than her husband and, best of all, said husband holds centre stage for considerably less than half the show. I liked it — in fact, if ten minutes had been taken out of its 50-minute running time, I'd have liked it quite a lot.

The idea of Daniels getting intimate is a terrifying one but that is what the BBC has consented to, building an elaborate nightclub, Secrets, in one of its studios. Daniels, for better or worse, is our host.

Where it succeeds is in the detail — a black-tie audience is seated at tables sipping white wine (and an improbable volume of mineral water) and being waited on by smartly dressed waiters and underdressed cigarette girls. When the focus switches from the main stage to table-top sleight of hand, couples obligingly get up and dance in the background. Apart from the lack of the odd fight and a bit of snogging, it's really quite authentic.

Last night's opening show began with an impressive display of pace. A bit of dancing, a bit of Daniels, a bit of walking, talking, dancing Debbie and then swiftly on to the guest acts. First up was Bill Malone, a fast-talking and even faster dealing cardsharp from America, whose quick repartee was just the job.

And, after a bit more dancing/Daniels/Debbie there was Greg, a Canadian who conjured poster-painted pigeons (presumably not something to be tried at home) from thin air, and later Svetlana from Ukraine, who began quite originally as the human candlestick but later turned into an act now rarely seen on television, a contortionist. Not only did she have double joints where I don't have joints, she had candles where . . . I wouldn't dream of putting them.

In between everything, of course, was Daniels, which probably left him with one more spot than the evening really required — but which to lose? It was a toss-up between a wobbly bit of levitation (significantly, he only raised Debbie to any real height after he had sent Jack Tinker, theatre critic and, for this purpose, lay observer, back to his seat) or a very curious version of *Romeo and Juliet* performed by dancing hankies. Personally, I'd have lost the hankies.

There were more magic hankies and more secrets a little later on, but sadly they were simply the opening titles to **My Secret Life** (BBC2), an irritating little vignette which saw fit to give ten minutes of fame to an unnamed junior secretary whose sole achievement in life had been to defraud the credit card companies of some £10,000.

Meekly, the programme accepted her oft-repeated explanation that her motive had not been theft but putting one over on her boss in whose name the cards were taken out. Still, if it gets the head of the Community Programme Unit arrested (conspiracy to defraud, accessory after the fact, wasting our time) then it won't entirely have been in vain.

By contrast, what preceded it was outstanding. The new education system is a rich vein for documentaries and Lucy Sandys-Winsch's fly-on-the-classroom-wall look at the role of privatised school inspectors proved one of the best. **The Inspection** (BBC2) followed inspectors as they made a week-long visit to the John Ellis Community College, a comprehensive school which by the admission of its own headmistress is not exactly high in Leicestershire's exam league tables.

Skilful and, I dare say, slightly manipulative editing heightened the tension between the sharp-suited inspectors and the school's commonroom chic teachers. In this version of the world, male teachers responded with anger and confrontation while females favoured fear and tears — apart from one splendidly relaxed grand dame who simply dunked her biscuit in her morning coffee and pointed out that all she could do was her best so there was no point worrying.

There proved to be no point in anyone worrying. Contrary to the school's darkest expectations, the standard of education at John Ellis was declared "sound". Sound, I now know, is a crucial word in modern education jargon, the equivalent perhaps of the all-encompassing B+.

The undoubted stars were Len Trevor, the sociology teacher who railed magnificently but no doubt foolishly against a system he was ideologically opposed to, and Niki Chandler, the head of modern languages whose commitment was such that when she couldn't hire a replacement German teacher she learnt the language herself. "Sound" did neither of them justice.

Last night was also time to bid au revoir to **Delia Smith's Winter Collection** (BBC2), which takes a curiously timed and lengthy Christmas break and returns in the new year. She celebrated with a lot of recipes that had hour-and-a-half gaps in them — "it leaves you time to sit back and do other things". The result, I fear, will be a lot of very sozzled hosts serving the main course at midnight. No change there then.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (65622)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (94613887)
9.10 Kilroy (s) (4173055)
10.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (5600806) **10.05 Housemates** (s) (3782069)
10.35 Good Morning with Anne and Nick (s) (4504622)
12.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (9605158) **12.05pm Pebble Mill** (s) (4761806)
12.50 Regional News and weather (23478158)
1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (37790)
1.30 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (92861245)
1.50 The Flying Doctors (Ceefax) (s) (5632332)
2.35 This is Your Life (r) (Ceefax) (s) (2585719)
3.05 Incognito. Quiz (s) (1929871)
3.30 Moomin (5144500) **3.55 Monster Cafe** (s) (5631871) **4.10 The Animals of Farthing Wood** (Ceefax) (s) (6225603) **4.35 Smart** (Ceefax) (s) (1854245) **5.00 Newsround** (Ceefax) (8876351)
5.10 Byker Grove (Ceefax) (5399852)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (443626)
6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (871)
6.30 Regional news magazines (351)
7.00 Top of the Pops (Ceefax) (s) (4516)
7.30 EastEnders. (Ceefax) (s) (535)
8.00 Animal Hospital. Rolf Harris explores the work of an RSPCA hospital and reporters Steve Knight and Mairi McHaffie go out with emergency crews to rescue injured animals. (Ceefax) (s) (3264)
8.30 The Brittas Empire: Biggies Tells a Lie. Deputy managers Colin and Laura step into the breach when Gordon has the day off to go sailing with Helen. With Chris Barrie (r) (Ceefax) (s) (9871) **WALES: 8.30** Wonder Woman (9871)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (8451)



Cinders (Ricky Tomlinson) turns hero (9.30pm)

9.30 Roughnecks. Drama series about life aboard the oilrig Osprey Explorer. The rig is hijacked and the men are held at gunpoint. But is it just a security exercise? With Colum Convey, Hywel Simons and Ashley Jensen. (Ceefax) (s) (419500)
10.20 Redcaps. Cake Tins for Kohima. Series on the Royal Military Police. A sergeant-major is accused of embezzling £450 from a mess fund and faces a court martial (Ceefax) (s) (963448) **WALES: 10.20** The Slate (475326) **11.05** Redcaps (270603) **11.35** Question Time (406806) **12.40am-2.10** Film: Shannon's Deal (6216456)
10.50 Question Time with David Dimbleby. The guests include Anne-Marie Huby, from the charity Médecins Sans Frontières, and MPs Frank Dobson and Ray Michie. (Ceefax) (3577784)
11.55 FILM: Shannon's Deal (1989) with Jamey Sheridan and Elizabeth Pena: A lawyer's career is wrecked by his compulsion for gambling. Reformed, he sets up as a private detective in the hope of getting back to normal. But he finds himself embroiled in a drug-smuggling racket. Directed by Lewis Teague (Ceefax) (105351)
1.30am Weather (9816098)

BBC2

6.00am Technology Season
7.00 Breakfast News. (Ceefax and signing) (4874239)
7.15 Lassie (7513662) **7.40 The Legend of Prince Valiant** (r). (Ceefax) (s) (1172822) **8.05 Blue Peter** (r). (Ceefax) (s) (3313158)
8.35 The Record (s) (4016142)
9.00 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes. Plus, for children, **10.00-10.25** Playdays (8100345)
2.00 The Family Ness (r) (76051603) **2.05 Bump** (r) (76050974) **2.10 A Century of Warfare:** The End of the War In Europe 1945 (s) (8893581)
3.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather; **Westminster** presented by Jon Sopel (7823790) **3.55 News** (Ceefax), regional news and weather (6785516)
4.00 Today's the Day. History quiz (s) (264)
4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook. Innovative recipes (s) (448) **5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show.** (Ceefax) (s) (4553429) **5.40 The Sky at Night.** (Ceefax) (s) (449595)
6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine. Sci-fi adventures. (s) (808142) **6.45 Rocky Star** (b/w). Australian sci-fispoof (743210) **6.50 Close Up.** Kathy Burke selects a scene from *Kes* (487142)
7.00 The Limit: The Fastest Ship. A series about the longest, tallest, fastest structures in the world. This programme focuses on the British ship designer David Giles (s) (2158)
7.30 First Sight: The Great Wall of Fear. Gang warfare in the South East (177) **WALES: 7.30** Homeland; **EAST: 7.30** Matter of Fact; **MIDLANDS: 7.30** Midlands Report; **SOUTH: 7.30** Southern Eye; **SOUTH, SOUTH-WEST: 7.30** Close Up West
8.00 Public Eye: Beating the Bullies. Bullying among young offenders. (Ceefax) (s) (1806)
8.30 Top Gear. Jeremy Clarkson tests the new Fiats, Bravo and Brava. (Ceefax) (s) (7413)



Paul Reynolds and Catherine Holman (9.00pm)

9.00 [redacted] The Ghostbusters of East Finchley. (Ceefax) (s) (4351)
9.30 The Young Ones (r). (Ceefax) (77722)
10.00 [redacted] Doctors in the Dock. (Ceefax) (s) (75871)
10.30 Newsnight. (Ceefax) (770582) **11.15 Late Review** (s) (641626) **11.55 Weather** (471790)
12.00 Midnight Hour with Trevor Phillips. (s) (19369) **12.30am-6.00 The Learning Zone: Open University** — Powers of the President (34340) **1.30** Global Firms in the Industrialising East (19982) **2.00 FETV Short Cuts** (36833) **4.00 BBC Focus:** The Science Archive and Royal Institution Discourse (82272) **5.30** RCN Nursing Update (10098)

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CHOICE

The Ghostbusters of East Finchley
BBC2, 9.00pm

With the ITV series *Gone to the Dogs* and *Gone to Seed* Tony Grounds staked out a promising niche as a writer of unconventional comedy. His new drama should more than confirm that reputation. A drama set on a north London council estate that includes among its characters John Lennon and Mother Teresa can hardly be accused of pandering to the expected. Grounds's heroes are Kevin (Paul Reynolds) and Jackie (Catherine Holman), two decidedly unglamorous young people who fall in love while investigating tax frauds. A shrewd piece of casting against type has the normally posh Jan Francis affecting a raucous working-class accent and trying her best to look dowdy as Kevin's exasperated mum.



Revisionist portrait of the Duke of Windsor (C4, 9pm)

Secret Lives: Edward VIII
Channel 4, 9.00pm

The series which has previously challenged the reputations of Lord Mountbatten and Walt Disney turns its revisionist fire on the man who was briefly Edward VIII but lived his life thereafter as the Duke of Windsor. This is not a full biography. The glamorous young Prince who vowed that something must be done about unemployment does not appear. The emphasis is on Edward's Nazi sympathies and its central charge is that he was not just a naive blunderer but was prepared to betray his country. The accusation is not new though it is given extra force through recently discovered documents. And when the historian of the calibre of Donald Cameron Watt calls his behaviour "close to treason" you are bound to take note.

Sophie's Meat Course
Channel 4, 8.30pm

Yet another cookery series, you may groan, but Sophie Grigson can reasonably claim to have devised a fresh slant. Her concern is not only with what goes on in the kitchen but also tracing dishes back to their source. Her programme on pork, therefore, includes a visit to a pig farmer and a bacon curer, with the admirable purpose of showing how to distinguish between the choice cuts and the flabby rubbish. Since it has been said of the pig that you can eat all of it except the squeak, Grigson can offer a diverse spread of recipes. They run from traditional roast pork and crackling to spare ribs, Chinese-style, and tenderloin served with a wickedly rich sauce. Grigson's straightforward, unfussy style is a welcome garnish.

Doctors in the Dock: Love in the Surgery
BBC2, 10.00pm (Scotland, 9.30pm)

"Romeo doctor struck off" yelled the tabloids, as the General Medical Council ended the career of David Corden for having an affair with a woman patient. Cherie Fox was 20, half the doctor's age, when she first came to his surgery. Later she became his receptionist, though it was some years before the relationship became more than professional. By this time he had divorced his second wife and her marriage was in trouble. Reflecting on his dismissal from his profession, Dr Corden reckons he was badly done by. Cherie, who became his third wife and bore him three children, agrees. Pat Holland's film is hardly a defence of the doctor but it reveals that medical ethics is a greyer area than might be supposed. Peter Waymark

CARLTON

6.00am GMTV (9940245)
9.25 Supermarket Sweep Quiz (s) (9206429)
9.55 London Today. (Teletext) (3988662)
10.00 The Time . . . the Place Discussion programme hosted by John Stapleton (s) (8823719)
10.35 This Morning. Magazine show (72867581)
12.20pm London Today (Teletext) (9521142)
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News and weather (Teletext) (9634806)
12.55 Home and Away (Teletext) (s) (9546697)
1.25 Emmerdale (r) (s) (69745005)
1.55 A Country Practice (s) (92786500)
2.20 Vanessa (Teletext) (s) (70015429)
2.50 The Lady Killers (r) (Teletext) (2496871)
3.20 News (Teletext) (8778887)
3.25 London Today (Teletext) (8777158)
3.30 The Riddlers (5623852) **3.40 Wizadora** (s) (6825413) **3.50 Astro Farm** (Teletext) (s) (5634968) **4.05 Garfield and Friends** (5893055) **4.15 Fantomcat** (s) (6146142)



All aboard for the children's drama (4.40pm)

4.40 Woolf (Teletext) (s) (2805142)
5.10 After 5 with Caron Keating (Teletext) (7806535)
5.40 ITN News and weather (254500)
5.55 Your Shout. Viewers air their views (168210)
6.00 Home and Away (r). (Teletext) (239)
6.30 London Tonight. (Teletext) (719)
7.00 Emmerdale. (Teletext) (6784)
7.30 The Big Story. Dermot Mumaghan investigates an invisible army of CIA agents operating in the heart of Europe (s) (603)
8.00 The Bill: The Wee Small Hours. Marshall investigates the case of a disturbed widow who thinks she is being stalked. (Teletext) (8332)
8.30 Michael Barrymore's My Kind of People. Amateur talent on parade. (Teletext) (s) (1239)
9.00 Taggart: Legends (Final Part). Scottish police drama. Marie McDonald (Barbara Dickson), former keyboard player with a pop group, is suspected of murdering two members of the band. She is certainly keen to cash in on the success of an old hit, but perhaps the murders are about nothing so mundane as money and have a more sinister significance. (Teletext) (s) (4413)
10.00 ITN News at Ten and weather (Teletext) (79697)
10.30 London Tonight (Teletext) (818887)
10.40 The Jogger (545968)
11.10 Big City. London events and entertainment (s) (191142)
11.40 Bagdad Cafe (s) (879158)
12.10am Curtis Calls (3062340) **12.15 War of the Worlds** (r) (138122)
1.15 Shift (2808340) **2.05 The Beat** (r) (s) (4778746) **3.00 The Album Show** (r) (s) (6955611) **3.55 Profile** (s) (17533494)
4.10 The Little Picture Show (r) (3398562)
5.00 Vanessa (r) (Teletext) (s) (88036)
5.30 ITN Morning News (24104). Ends at **6.00**

CHANNEL 4

6.35am Heathcliff. Cartoon series (r) (7960992)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (54413)
9.00 Evening Shade. Small-town America comedy series (r) (s) (52974)
9.30 Schools: Middle English (4733245) **9.45** The Maths Programme (7645061) **10.05** Scientific Eye **10.25** Geographical Eye (3540871) **10.45** Le Petit Monde de Pierre (4531072) **11.00** Breaking the Mould (6259069) **11.20** Reviewing the Landscape (6857887) **11.40** The Spanish Programme (4981413)
12.00 House To House. Political magazine (69210)
12.30pm Sesame Street (45871) **1.30 The Wonderful Wizard Of Oz** (r) (s) (25459535) **1.55 Pigbird.** Canadian animation (98613351)
2.00 FILM: Johnny Eager (1942, b/w) starring Robert Taylor, Lana Turner and Van Heflin A paroled crook, pretending to go straight, falls for the daughter of the lawyer who sent him to prison. Directed by Mervyn LeRoy (1326)
4.00 Think Tank. Team quiz. (Teletext) (s) (332)
4.30 Fifteen To One (Teletext) (s) (516)
5.00 Ricki Lake. Joe Clark, a black head teacher who cleaned up his school's drug problem, is the guest. (Teletext) (s) (4245531)
5.45 Terrytoons (251413)
6.00 Home Improvement. American comedy series starring Tim Allen (s) (581)
6.30 New Gamesmaster. Computer and video games magazine (531)
7.00 Channel 4 News. (Teletext) (218992)
7.50 Four Fingers and a Thumb. A dinner party that succeeds without conversation (s) (153448)
8.00 Hands Up. The third of an eight-part education magazine. (Teletext) (6974)



Sophie Grigson and Graham Portwine (8.30pm)

8.30 [redacted] Sophie's Meat Course: Pork (Teletext) (s) (2581)
9.00 [redacted] Secret Lives: Edward VIII — the Traitor King. (Teletext) (2055)
10.00 Jake's Progress. The final episode of Alan Bleasdale's black comedy/drama. Starring Robert Lindsay, Julie Walters and Lindsay Duncan (Teletext) (s) (729055)
11.35 Get Up, Stand Up. Sketches and stand-up comedy. (Teletext) (s) (878429)
12.05am Four Fingers and a Thumb (r) (4082920)
12.10 Four-Mations: Secret Passions — Animation Since Perestrolka. *Clinic, Gagarin* and *After Ego* (2978727)
12.50 FILM: Ladies Of Leisure (1930, b/w) starring Barbara Stanwyck, Ralph Graves, Lowell Sherman and Marie Prévost. A young woman sets out to get a wealthy young husband, but opts for his best friend when the family refuse to let him marry her. Directed by Frank Capra (457920)
2.40 Four-Mations: Secret Passions — Pacifier followed by **Breakfast on the Grass.** Award-winning animation based on Manet (7238949)
3.10 The Tilting Ground. Music by Scottish instrumentalists (r) (s) (6982765). Ends **4.05**

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA

As London except: 12.55 Emmerdale (9546697) 1.25-1.55 Home and Away (69745005) 2.50-3.20 High Road (2496871) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (7806535) 6.25-7.00 Anglia News (719) 10.40 Tales from the Crypt (545988) 11.10 First Take (191142) 11.40 Prisoner Cell Block H (461887) 12.35am War and Remembrance (445185) 2.25 Best of British Motorsport (3558659) 2.55 The Beat (1775369) 3.50 Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (97324818) 4.15 Quiz Night (83616543) 4.40 Recollections (51587388)

CENTRAL

As London except: 2.50-3.20 High Road (2496871) 3.25-3.30 Central News (8777158) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (7806535) 6.25-7.00 Central News and Weather (243866) 10.40 Flinz: Trapped (20446794) 3.55am Jobfinder (2054630)

GRANADA

As London except: 12.55-1.25 Shortland Street (9546697) 1.25 Home and Away (11152887) 1.50 Vanessa (25384413) 2.20 The Lady Killers (70015429) 2.50-3.20 Emmerdale (2496871) 5.10-5.40 A Country Practice (7806535) 6.25-7.00 Granada Tonight (243800) 10.40 New Voices: Little India (545988) 11.10 The Lips (191142) 11.40-12.15am Short Story Cinema (711790) 3.55-4.10 Jobfinder (17533494)

HTV WEST

As London except: 12.55 Shortland Street (7388413) 1.20 Coronation Street (68395564) 2.50-3.20 Gardening Time (2496871) 5.10-5.40 A Country Practice (7806535) 6.30-7.00 HTV News (719) 10.45 Music Writers on TV (8658958) 11.15 Hunter (6458852) 3.55am Jobfinder (17533494)

HTV WALES

As HTV West except: 2.50-3.20 Designed by Emanuel (2496871) 6.30-7.00 Wales Tonight (719) 7.30-8.00 Wales This Week (603) 10.45 Heroes: (9968967) 11.15 Big Story (8852210) 11.45 World of Wonder

MERIDIAN

As London except: 12.55 Emmerdale (9546697) 1.25-1.55 Home and Away (69745005) 2.50-3.20 Shortland Street (2496871) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (7806535) 6.00 Meridian Tonight (239) 6.30-7.00 Anything You Can Do (719) 10.45 Film: Oxford Blues (81542852) 12.35am War and Remembrance (445185) 2.25 Best of British Motorsport (3558659) 2.55 The Beat (1775369) 3.50 Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (97324818) 4.15 Quiz Night (83616543) 4.40-5.00 Recollections (51587388)

WESTCOUNTRY

As London except: 12.55 Emmerdale (9546697) 1.25 Home and Away (69745005) 1.55-2.20 The Young Doctors (92786500) 2.50-3.20 A Country Practice (2496871) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (7806535) 6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (91351) 10.30 Westcountry News; Weather (818687) 10.40 Drums in the Sun (545988) 11.10 Prisoner Cell Block H (698210) 3.55am Jobfinder (17533494)

YORKSHIRE

As London except: 9.55-10.00 Calendar News and Weather (3988662) 12.20pm-12.30 Yorkshire Calendar News and Weather / Bladelair: Network North (9521142) 12.55 Emmerdale (9546697) 1.25-1.55 Home and Away (69745005) 2.50-3.20 Shortland Street (2496871) 3.25-3.30 Yorkshire: Calendar News / Bladelair: Network North (97777158) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (7806535) 5.55 Calendar / Network North (434581) 6.30-7.00 Bladebusters (719) 10.30 Calendar News and Weather (818687) 10.40 The Business (2759927) 11.25 Prisoner Cell Block H (6930055) 12.20am Film: Dead Cert (116369) 2.00 America's Top Ten (76814) 2.30 Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (95949) 3.00 Film: Desert Mice (9485543) 4.25 Jobfinder (4042630)

S4C

Starts: 7.00 The Big Breakfast (54413) 9.20 Evening Shade (52974) 9.30 Schools (87155) 9.30 Middle English (4733245) 9.45 The Maths Programme (7645061) 10.05 Scientific Eye (4167974) 10.25 Geographical Eye (3540871) 10.45 Le Petit Monde De Pierre (4531072) 11.00 Breaking The Mould (6259069) 11.20 Reviewing The Landscape (6857887) 11.40 The Spanish Programme (4981413) 12.00pm House To House (69210) 12.30 The Pink Panther Show (31013971) 12.45 Aashiri! Real Monsters! (31016925) 1.00 Sid Mellinn (57500) 1.30 Film: The Tilfield Thunderbolt (14980210) 3.05 In A Rehearsal Room (9838719) 3.15 Ricki Lake: Blind Date For Ricki's Sister (1369980) 4.00 Think Tank (332) 4.30 The Real Holiday Show (518) 5.00 5 Pump Uned 5 (6090) 5.30 Fifteen To One (966) 6.00 Newyddion (982332) 6.15 Heno (973535) 7.00 Pobol Y Cwm (8273517) 7.25 Bacha Hi O'Mi (535719) 8.00 Er Mwyn Tad: Ewyllys Da (8974) 8.30 Newyddion (2581) 9.00 Film: Four Weddings and a Funeral (90487429) 11.15 Witness: Football, Faith and Futes (749822) 12.15am Without Walls: Autogenetic: The People Movers (27882) 12.45 Without Walls: My Generation: The Small Faces (28253) 1.15 Four Fingers And A Thumb (3226949) 1.20 Foumations 1995 (3327388)

SATELLITE

●For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday

SKY ONE

7.00am DJ Kat (66264) 8.00 Power Rangers 8.30 Jeopardy (98780) 9.00 Court TV (18142) 9.30 Oprah (81790) 10.30 Concentration (12326) 11.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (77332) 12.00 Spellbound 12.30pm Designing Women (45142) 1.00 The Waltons (40897) 2.00 Geraldo (51806) 3.00 Court TV 3.30 Oprah (9533448) 4.30 Undone (1904500) 5.00 Star Trek (9603) 6.00 Power Rangers (4887) 6.30 Spellbound (2239) 7.00 LAPD (8072) 7.30 M*A*S*H (7351) 8.00 Police Stop! (87142) 9.00 The Commish (70808) 10.00 Star Trek (73993) 11.00 Law and Order (92897) 12.00 Late Show (9301494) 12.45am Untouchables (3921253) 1.30 Anything But Love (55369) 2.00 Hit Mix (8086582)

SKY NEWS

6.00am Sunrise (3797581) 10.30 ABC Nightline (10988) 11.00 News and Business (432448) 1.30pm CBS News (78413) 2.30 Parliament (40516) 3.30 Parliament (8245) 4.00 News and Business (32158) 5.00 Live at Five (98055) 6.30 Tonight (58719) 8.30 Worldwide (413910) 11.30 CBS News (38210) 12.30am ABC News (44974) 1.30 Tonight (42104) 2.30 Newsmaker 3.30 Parliament (21746) 4.30 CBS News (77386) 5.30-6.00 ABC News (85562)

SKY MOVIES

10.00am Father Hood (1993) (29155) 12.00 Walk Like a Man (1987) (52591) 2.00pm A Whale for the Killing — Part One (1981) (54245) 4.00 Butter Cream Gang (1992) (4535) 6.00 Father Hood (1993) (40888790) 7.40 US Top 10 (444177) 8.00 Betrayed By Love (1993) (83326) 10.00 On Deadly Ground (1994) (758924) 11.45 Seeds of Deception (1994) (658413) 1.20am Road Flower (1993) (28753907) 2.50 In the Company of Darkness (1992) (574340) 4.25-5.00 Butter Cream Gang (1992) (628659)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm The Glass Key (1942) (8177) 6.00 Gold Diggers of 1933 (1933) (57993) 8.00 Raggedy Man (1981) (56210) 10.00 Papillon (1973) (61822518) 12.40-3.10am Cimarron (1960) (84298801)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.30am Tarzan's Desert Mystery (1943) (59245) 8.00 Robin Hood (1985) (70603) 9.00 What Next? (1974) (33561) 10.00 That's My Boy (1951) (47500) 12.00 Year of the Comet (1992) (56351) 2.00pm All That Heaven Allows (1955) (62887) 4.00 Robin Hood (1985) (54326) 5.00 What Next? (1974) (9413) 6.00 The Whipping Boy (1994) (75351) 8.00 Grumpy Old Man (1993) (50382448) 9.45 Movie Show () (328993) 10.15 Accidental Hero (1992) (298993) 12.15am Dangerous Touch (1993) (365340) 2.00 Empty Cradle (1993) (802095) 3.35-5.35 Thunderheart (1992) (54241524)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold from 10pm to 4am.
6.00am Umbrella Tree (32146871) 6.30 Muppet Babies (27321790) 7.00 Winnie the Pooh (67141806) 7.30 Ducktales (67057413) 8.00 Rescue Rangers (82130429) 8.30 Wonderland (82059500) 9.00 Fraggle Rock (82040852) 9.30 Pooh Corner (90483326) 10.00 Dumbo's Circus (27249142) 10.30 Quack Attack (82142264) 11.00 Disney (67139061) 12.00 Sinbad (82133516) 12.30pm The Torkelsons (90487142) 1.00 Faerie Tale Theatre (80482697) 2.00 Wonderland (78999326) 2.30 Umbrella Tree (86976448) 3.00 Fraggle Rock (78074061) 3.30 Winnie the Pooh (86971993) 4.00 Quack Attack (86887500) 4.30 Ducktales (98883784) 5.00 Rescue Rangers (78086808) 5.30 Danger Bay (86970264) 6.00 Tarzan (86877177) 6.30 Dinosaurs (86868429) 7.00 FILM: My Dog, the Thief (98578697) 8.30 Zorro (78998697) 9.00-10.00 Entertainment Special (99141974)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Equestrianism (84264) 9.00 Tennis (36581) 9.30 Rally (87993) 10.00 Formula 1 (90719) 10.30 Football (53806) 12.30pm Eurofun (65581) 1.00 Skating (9660061) 5.00 Truck Racing (7887) 6.00 Skiing (7383516) 7.15 News (370993) 7.30 Skating (35142) 9.00 Football (591210) 12.00-12.30am Eurosport News (97185)

SKY SPORTS

7.00am Sports Centre (27351) 7.30 Racing (13158) 8.00 Cricket (1328246) 4.00pm Rugby (7326) 4.30 Tennis (8210) 5.00 Wrestling (2719) 6.00 Sports Centre (9513) 6.30 Rugby Union (8055) 7.00 Tight Lines (632103) 7.55 Sports Centre (245413) 8.00 Cricket (97054) 10.00 Centre (35806) 10.30 Tight Lines (42068) 11.30 Netbusters (70264) 12.30am Rugby (30123) 1.30 Soccer (99727) 2.00-2.30 Centre (59123)

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00pm Rugby (9823210) 8.00 Netbusters (9912158) 9.00-1.00am Tennis (3130951)



Steve McQueen stars in *Papillon* (Sky Movies Gold, 10.00pm)

THE CHRISTIAN CHANNEL

4.00am Living Word 5.00 Kenneth Copeland 5.30 Kidz TV 5.45 General Christian Entertainment 6.15am Colin Dye/Wake Up Europe 6.45-7.00 Christian Music Television

SKY SOAP

7.00am Guiding Light (1634158) 7.55 As the World Turns (8876448) 8.50 Peyton Place (2757177) 9.20 Days of our Lives (2289239) 10.10-11.00 Another World (1062210)

SKY TRAVEL

11.00am Globetrotter (2549868) 11.30 Ski Perfect (2549897) 12.00 Discover your World (5678971) 12.30pm Restaurants (1699974) 1.00 Around the World . . . In 30 Minutes (9214055) 1.30am Travel Guide (1688245) 2.00 Ski Special (1185500) 3.00 Getaway (5290852) 3.30-4.00 Boomerang (6953351)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00am Our Century (2635448) 5.00 History Alive (8387332) 6.00-7.00 Biography: The Red Baron (1897993)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

1.00am Mysteries and Miracles (4013582) 1.30 Ray Bradbury (3086859) 2.00 FILM: Frankenstein Meets the Wolf Man (7212253) 3.30-4.00 Ray Bradbury Theatre (1973901)

TLC

9.00am Wild at Heart (8284326) 9.30 Simply Delicious (2197887) 10.00 Vet's Life (4027142) 10.30 Park High (8273210) 11.00 Only Human (2714993) 11.45 Draw with Don (25276177) 12.00 General Practice (8393790) 12.30pm Jimmy's (2191603) 1.00 Delicious (5748351) 1.30 Wild at Heart (2190974) 2.00 Will It Hurt? (7567516) 2.30 Life Is for Living (5464806) 3.00 Animal Magnetism (7578351) 3.30-4.00 Vet's Life (5469351)

UK GOLD

7.00am Five Children and It (5845210) 7.30 Neighbours (5737245) 8.00 Sons and Daughters (8369061) 8.30 EastEnders (8368332) 9.00 The Bill (8286784) 9.30 The Sullivans (2199245) 10.00 All Creatures Great and Small (5733429) 11.00 Dallas (5746993) 12.00 Sons and Daughters (8379448) 12.30pm Neighbours (2193061) 1.00 EastEnders (5644581) 1.30 The Bill (2192332) 2.00 The Sullivans (63046974) 2.25 Are You Being Served? (8242500) 3.00 Angels (7475581) 3.30 Eldorado (6365581) 4.00 Casualty (19707697) 5.05 Every Second Counts (4678500) 5.45 Dad's Army (9112597) 6.25 EastEnders (8483210) 7.00 Eldorado (7563790) 7.30 Kenny Everett (6454429) 8.00 George and Mildred (7478210) 8.30 What a Carry On! (7568245) 9.00 Minder (4588351) 10.00 The Bill (20598516) 11.15 Classic Sport (2535284) 12.20am Lenny Henry (4884949) 12.55 Dr Who (2091630) 1.20 FILM: Bless This House (3688398) 1.50-3.00 Shopping (59835302)

TCC

6.00am Casper (72974) 7.00 Pink Panther (50284) 7.30 Ready or Not (66571) 8.00 Valley High (60516) 8.30 Casper (3479852) 8.45 Dinobabies (3574535) 9.00 Tiny TCC (585600) 12.00 Tiny TCC (616448) 2.30pm Happily Ever After (7142) 3.00 Sonic (8535) 3.30 Pink Panther (2887) 4.00 California Dreams (4622) 4.30-5.00 Valley High (2845)

NICKELODEON

8.00am Garbage (7576784) 8.15 Grimmy (7571239) 8.30 Hero Turtles (47023) 7.00 Batfink (9095974) 7.05 Hero Turtles (1447887) 7.45 Rugrats (2444332) 8.15 Doug (339974) 8.45 The Fenish (62992239) 9.00 Nick (9740351) 12.30pm Real Monsters (78055) 1.00 Wishbone (24264) 1.30 Mighty Max 2.00 Speed Racer (1734) 2.30 Rude Dog (7516) 3.00 Count Duckula (6581) 3.30 Pet Shop (2081) 4.00 Fish and Chips (5968) 4.30 Rugrats 5.00 Clarissa (8326) 5.30 Nancy Drew (1332) 6.00 Doug (8245) 6.30 Are You Afraid? (6687) 7.00 Fish and Chips (4790) 7.30-8.00 Nancy Drew (5581)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Nature Watch (84561S8) 4.30 In the Wild (8371142) 5.00 Realm of Darkness (7580603) 5.30 Invention (5485535) 6.30 Beyond 2000 (83389974) 7.30 Space Racers (83572971) 8.00 Weather (7474852) 8.30 Science (7569897) 9.00 Top Guns (6712852) 9.30 Science Detectives (2015239) 10.00 Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious World (8378719) 10.30 Weather (8281239) 11.00 Top Marques (6724697) 11.30-12.00 Special Forces (4023326)

BRAVO

12.00 FILM: Cosmic Man (61180055) 1.20pm Behave Yourself (6814871) 2.00 Danger Man (4022697) 3.00 Scotland Yard (7573177) 3.30 Man From Interpol (6463177) 4.00 FILM: Gregory's Girl (7577983) 6.00 Scotland Yard (8452061) 6.30 UFO (8253500) 7.30 The Protectors (6376697) 8.00 Space 1999 (4485055) 9.00 The Prisoner (4588719) 10.00-12.00 FILM: The Witchfinder General (6803158)

UK LIVING

6.00am Agony Hour (7540535) 7.00 Magazine (6364103) 9.00 The Treatment (41210369) 9.30 Kate and Allie (7121326) 10.00 Hearts of Gold (3276790) 11.00 Young and Restless (81207671) 11.55 Mastercher (2369622) 12.30pm Brookside (9583559) 1.05 Kilroy (8448516) 2.00 Agony Hour (6459558) 3.00 Magazine (6043897) 4.00 Infatuation UK (42012142) 4.30 Crosswits (8094719) 5.05 Joker's Wild (75768871) 5.30 Bewitched (4395806) 6.00 Esther (4392719) 6.30 Brookside (57471S8) 7.05 Jerry Springer (9973061) 8.00 Young and Restless (85922S9) 9.00 FILM: Courage (78390719) 11.35 Late at the Office 11.50-12.00 Entertainment Now!

FAMILY CHANNEL

5.00pm Wonder Years (7852) 5.30

Pitch-watering confirms South Africa's intentions for first Test match

England prepare for trial by pace

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN VERWOERDBURG

THERE has been a phoney war, a game of bluff and bluster, dominating the build-up to the Test series that begins near Pretoria this morning. It culminated yesterday in Raymond Illingworth, the England manager, reacting with suspicion and indignation to what he sees as the sinister preparation of the Centurion Park pitch.

Illingworth arrived at the ground in late morning wondering if the nets would be usable after a spectacular and prolonged storm the previous night. He was startled, therefore, to find that hose-pipes had been out on the Test pitch, and that Hilbert Smith, the groundsman, planned to repeat the exercise after lunch. Illingworth's response was to delay naming the side fixed in his mind and, instead, to announce a squad of 13.

Privately, Illingworth remains confident that his best course is to include the left-arm spin of Richard Illingworth alongside Dominic Cork, Angus Fraser and Darren Gough. This will mean omitting Malcolm and Ilott. Publicly, he regretted that no such decisions could be made because he was "waiting for them to stop watering the pitch". His tone suggested that he did not think that the watering was an entirely impartial measure.



Raymond Illingworth, left, the England manager, and Atherton, the captain, inspect the Centurion Park pitch yesterday. Photograph: Graham Morris

TEAMS

ENGLAND (from): M A Atherton (captain), A J Stewart, M R Ramprakash, G P Thorpe, G A Hick, R A Smith, R C Russell, D G Cork, D Gough, R K Illingworth, A R C Fraser, D E Malcolm, M C Ilott.
SOUTH AFRICA (from): A C Hudson, G Kirsten, W J Cronje (captain), D J Cullinan, J N Rhodes, B M McMillan, D J Richardson, S M Pollock, C R Matthews, A A Donald, B N Schultz, C E Eksteen
Umpires: C J Mitchley (South Africa) and S Venkataraghavan (India).

"I presume they are a bit worried about it lasting the distance," he said, caustically. "When I saw the pitch yesterday, I thought it would definitely turn before the end of the match. It looks as though the groundsman thought the same. Pitches here have been helping the spinners in four-day cricket and I imagine he is trying to avoid that so South Africa can play all their fast bowlers."

Here is the rub. South Africa's rigid strategy, at least for the first two Tests, is to seize the initiative with pace. They have advertised the fact, long and loud, and word has been spread that the pitches, at Centurion Park and at the Wanderers ground in two weeks, will encourage the policy. England were not convinced, and prepared to counter speed with subtlety — hence Raymond Illingworth's irritation at the late adjustment of conditions that had initially encouraged him.

Michael Atherton, the captain, was outwardly at odds with the manager's mood. Whereas Illingworth claimed that it was "unusually late to be watering a Test pitch", Atherton dismissed it as "not unusual at all". Looking relaxed, Atherton then endorsed the preference for a slow bowler in his side. "I very rarely like to go into a Test without a spinner, and unless there is an extraordinary change in conditions, we will play one," he said.

Atherton was also inclined to puncture the hyperbole over the South Africa pace attack. "We have just had a whole summer of it against the West Indies, so it won't be anything new," he said, "and although the talk has been of the Tests being played on lightning-quick pitches, I'm not sure that will be the case."

Although it is sensible of Atherton to play down such talk, there is no doubt that Allan Donald, the best fast bowler in the world, is the most persuasive factor justifying South Africa's position as odds-on favourites for the series. However, despite England's distressing habit of losing the early Tests on recent tours, and their lacklustre form in Kimberley last weekend, nobody should be discouraged from backing them to win this opening game at the attractive odds of 3-1.

South Africa have relied heavily on Donald and Fanie de Villiers over the past three years. De Villiers is already ruled out of this series by injury, and Donald remains quietly concerned over a groin spasm that he suffered last weekend. Should anything happen to him, England would be strong favourites to win here, but, even with Donald fully fit, there are suspect areas to this South Africa side, notably in their top-order batting.

They are a one-dimensional team, the dependence of pace illustrated by the fact that Dave Richardson, their wicketkeeper, has 99 Test victims, of whom not one was stumped, and by the selection as their best slow bowler of Clive Eksteen, whose five Test wickets have cost 71 runs each. Unless Eksteen plays today, which remains unlikely, it will also be hard work for the fast bowlers operating in intense heat.

For all that, South Africa's recent record commands respect. They have won five Tests in succession and, since their return to international cricket, have been beaten only five times in 23 games. Habitually, they have found someone to see them to a serviceable total. England have not always been so resourceful, and it is on how their batting fares against the South African heavy artillery that this series will rest.

Cronje's mission 44
Penitent Pakistan 44

Gordon's strength keeps hope intact for Nemeth

FROM NICHOLAS HARLING
IN PONTE DE SOR

JUST when it looked as though England were heading for yet another failure in the European basketball championship, Laszlo Nemeth's squad revived itself to gain a welcome 75-72 victory over Portugal here last night to retain a slim chance of making further progress from group B in the semi-final round.

The belated success — that they apparently did their best to relinquish from the free-throw line, where they missed 16 of 38 shots — came after defeats by Latvia, Estonia and Germany. With a visit to Russia in February next on the itinerary, the last thing Nemeth needed was another loss.

That looked the most likely prospect when England trailed 31-25 four minutes from the interval. It was then that they summoned their big resistance movement, bringing on the musclemen, including Trevor Gordon, in place of the speed merchants, such as Ronnie Baker.

The reshuffled defence caused an unlikely transformation. With a three-pointer on the half-time buzzer from Peter Scantlebury, their captain, who was celebrating his 100th international, England had transformed their six-point arrears into a six-point advantage, 38-32. The sequence then got better. England's rediscovered defensive intensity, aided by Gordon, Steve Bucknall, the top scorer, Andy Gardiner, Roger Huggins and Neville Austin, who helped to widen the gap to 49-34.

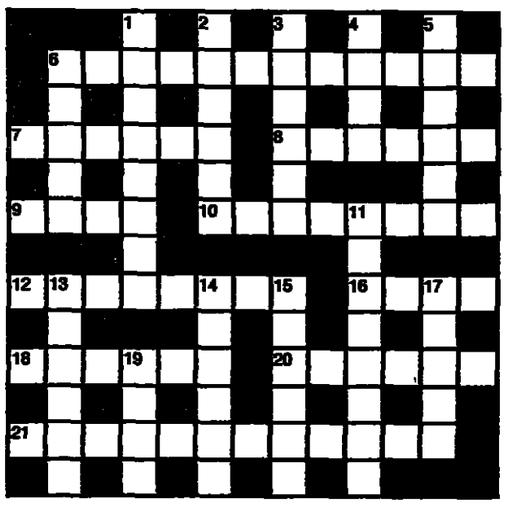
Pedro Nuno began the inevitable Portuguese recovery, which was helped by Karl Brown and Bucknall needlessly conceding possession at vital moments. English nerves were jangling as the deficit was cut to six at 70-64 when Gordon fell on top of Nuno and was fouled out.

Jose Costa's last throw for Portugal flew in from three-point range but it was accompanied by the sound of the final buzzer signalling a reprieve for England.

"I knew the Portugese would have a good outside shooting threat, so we defended intensively on the perimeter," Nemeth said. "The game was decided on physical strength."

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 628 in association with BRITISH MIDLAND



ACROSS
6 Tudor song of false lady: its tune (12)
7 Paltry, petty (eg dictator) (6)
8 Frisk like lamb (6)
9 Raise; back (4)
10 French soup, its vessel (3-2-3)
12 (Greek) pillar carved as woman (8)
16 Boy, (too) smart (4)
18 Plaster for outside walls (6)
20 Untouched (6)
21 Pompous ass (7,5)

DOWN
1 Position of danger (8)
2 Part of foot (6); conforming (2,4)
3 Little; a discourtesy (6)
4 Seed; carrier of disease (4)
5 Withdraw (ruling) (6)
6 (Deceptive) appearance (5)
11 Dauntless (8)
13 Sharp-witted (6)
14 Scooping, spreading tool (6)
15 Think up; dispose of in will (6)
17 Order from authority (5)
19 Small restaurant (4)

PRIZES:
THE WINNER will receive a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on British Midland's domestic or international network.
THE RUNNER-UP will receive a return ticket to anywhere on British Midland's domestic network. British Midland offers an extensive range of departure and destination points throughout the UK as well as Europe. As the UKs second largest scheduled service airline and Heathrows second biggest user, it operates a fleet of 35 aircraft on over 1200 flights per week throughout the UK and Europe.
All flights are subject to availability.

Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address

SOLUTION TO NO 627
ACROSS: 1 Depict 4 Hanger 8 Milksop 10 Clout 11 Rave 12 Cassette 14 Rock 'n' roll 18 Insomnia 20 Agar 22 Carol 23 Frogman 24 Sleaze 25 Crisis
DOWN: 1 Demure 2 Palaver 3 Cash 5 Ancestor 6 Gloat 7 Rotten 9 Plaintiff 13 Schmaltz 15 Legumes 16 Discus 17 Drones 19 Serve 21 Pour

Players and officials in cup-tie 'brawl'

BIRMINGHAM City were involved in an alleged dressing-room brawl after their Anglo-Italian Cup match in Ancona yesterday. The Ancona coach was reported to have been hurt in fighting between football players and officials.

Massimo Cacciatori suffered a cut over his left eyebrow and a bruise, the ANSA news agency reported. He was treated in hospital.

The match, which Birmingham won 2-1, was marred by rough play and fights between players at the Conero Stadium in the central Italian port of Ancona. A group of home supporters hurled stones at a bus carrying Birmingham followers to the airport, but nobody was hurt, according to police.

Neil McDiarmid, the Birmingham physiotherapist, was thought to have been pushed as he tried to treat Paul Tait for a head injury.

The proposed transfer of Tomas Brolin, the Sweden forward, from Parma to Leeds United collapsed at the last minute when the player failed to agree personal terms with the FA Carling Premiership club. Parma officials said yesterday. Gary Penrice, 31, has rejoined Watford, the struggling Endsleigh Insurance League first division club, from Queens Park Rangers in a £300,000 deal.

Torquay United, bottom of the third division, have named Eddie May as their new manager. May, 50, the former Cardiff City manager, replaces Don O'Riordan, who was dismissed after Torquay's 8-1 home defeat by Scunthorpe United on October 28.

Pembridge saves wounded Wales

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

MARK PEMBRIDGE rescued Wales from a miserable start by claiming his second international goal as they ended their ill-starred European championship campaign with a gutsy 1-1 draw against Albania in Tirana yesterday.

With eight first-team regulars missing through injury, Wales had fallen behind after only four minutes, but dragged themselves back into the game with Pembridge, 24, the Sheffield Wednesday midfield player, leading from the front.

So it was fitting that it was Pembridge who was on hand to take advantage of a piece of brilliance by Ryan Giggs to head home just before the break and give Wales a hard-fought point.

GROUP SEVEN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulgaria	9	7	1	1	23	7	22
Germany	9	7	1	1	24	9	22
Georgia	10	5	0	5	14	13	15
Moldavia	10	3	0	7	11	28	9
Albania	10	2	2	6	10	16	8
Wales	10	2	2	6	9	19	8

☐ Not including Germany v Bulgaria.

Neville Southall had several escapes, with both his post and bar being struck, but, as the game wore on, Wales began to look the better balanced team.

Bobby Gould, the Wales manager, was delighted as his patched-up side held on, with Gareth Taylor making his debut and Robbie Savage and John Robinson coming off the bench late on to earn their first caps. "We had an awful start and gave away an awful goal," Gould said.

"They did get at us at the start of the second half, but we've got to take a great deal of heart from the way we played. Everybody gave their best. Although I wanted to win, because I'm a winner, it's a sound result."

Inside the first minute, Neville Southall was beaten by a free kick from Pano which crashed against his upright; three minutes later, the Welsh were behind. It was the sort of return to the international arena that Eric Young could only have had nightmares about as he conceded the clearest of penalties.

The Wolverhampton Wanderers defender, back after a 20-month absence, allowed Sokol Kushta to nip past him and race into the box and his response was a scything foul.

Pembridge's equalising goal owed much to the quick thinking of Dean Saunders, who took a throw down the left, but even more to the genius of Giggs. The Manchester United forward raced into space before picking out a perfectly-timed run by Pembridge, who headed home confidently.

Pembridge was close again before the interval, but, at the start of the second period, Southall's goal came under severe pressure, and he could only look on as the best effort, an acrobatic volley by Rakki, the striker, thumped against the bar.

Wales should have gone in front from their first break of the half, but Giggs's left-foot shot screwed wide of the target. However, the opportunity at least proved that Wales could get something from the game and, in the final half-hour, they looked the more likely winners.

Germany suited by Moldavia's victory

GERMANY and Bulgaria, who were meeting last night to decide which of them would finish top of the European football championship qualifying group seven, had the pressure taken off them without having to kick a ball when results elsewhere ensured that both nations would reach the finals, to be held in England next summer.

Under the complicated qualifying procedure adopted by Uefa, the governing body of European football, Moldavia's 3-2 win over Georgia in Chisnau secured Germany's passage, even if they were beaten last night, while Bulgaria's place was assured by the 1-1 draw between Albania and Wales in Tirana.

Also through are Romania, whose 2-0 victory over Slovakia in Kosice yesterday ensured that they would finish top of group one. Gheorge Hagi and Dorinel Munteanu scored Romania's goals in the second half. Also in group one, Azerbaijan and Poland drew 0-0. The game was played in front of a sparse crowd in Trabzon, a Black Sea coastal town, after Uefa ordered that Azerbaijan play their home qualifying matches at a neutral venue because of civil unrest in the former Soviet republic.

☐ Edmundo, the Flamengo and Brazil striker, has been suspended for 40 days for making an obscene gesture to supporters during a club match. The ban, to take immediate effect, will be largely symbolic, as Edmundo is expected to be out of action for the rest of the year with a broken toe.



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